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Charles, Di end visit

KUWAIT, March 14, (KUNA): Prince Charles and Princess Diana today left Kuwait at the end of an official three-day visit.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, ministers, senior officials, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the UK and the British ambassador bade the royal couple farewell.

(See Page 5)

Rules under review Licences for expats

By Salem Al Wawan

THE Ministry of the Interior may soon relax rules to provide driving licences to expatriates, informed sources told the Arab Times yesterday.

A number of meetings have been held recently by senior officials of the traffic department to discuss the new rules.

The department is also considering issuing learner's licences to people who are in urgent need of these.

Presently, only special categories of expatriates such as judges, doctors, experts and some other highly qualified persons are entitled to obtain a Kuwaiti driving licence.

The traffic department, which several years ago stopped issuing learner's licences to expatriates, attributed the reason to the large number of vehicles in the country.

Iraq to supply water within four years

By Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

THE recent agreement signed between Kuwait and Iraq for the supply of water by Iraq to Kuwait and exchange of electricity between the two countries will be implemented within four years, Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Homoud Al Rqobah said yesterday.

The minister, who returned to Kuwait yesterday after a three-day visit to Iraq said the agreement stipulates that in the first stage, Iraq will supply 350 million gallons of drinking water per day from Al Qarar river, with a maximum ceiling of 750 million gallons per day.

The agreement further provides for the supply of 200 million gallons of irrigation water from Al Haritha river to Kuwait, with a maximum of 500 million gallons daily.

The two countries have also agreed that they will exchange 150 megawatts of electricity per day.

Both countries with the conclusion of the agreement have increased their bilateral co-operation. A follow-up technical committee will be formed in the near future to finalise the technicalities of the agreement.

Rqobah said that the culmination of this successful accord is the result of the efforts initiated by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah during his visit to Iraq last month.

Rqobah also reviewed plans for further supplies of water to Kuwait with Iraqi Industry and Military Manufacturing Brigadier Hussein Kamel.

On the culmination of this historic agreement, which falls within the framework of joint Arab co-operation, Rqobah said that the Iraqi first vice-president had asked him to convey President Saddam's appreciation and gratitude to HH the Amir for Kuwait's contribution towards current reconstruction works in the Iraqi cities of Basra and Faw.

During the talks the Kuwaiti team of experts, was led by Rqobah and the Iraqi team was led by local government Minister Adnan Salman Daddo. The two ministers signed the agreement on behalf of their countries.

Uproar disrupts Indian Parliament

NEW DELHI, March 14, (AP): Opposition politicians forced adjournment of the lower house of Parliament today after a newspaper quoted excerpts from a secret inquiry into the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Speaker Balram Jakhar adjourned the Lok Sabha almost two hours early after opposition members disrupted business, demanding that the inquiry's report be made public.

The Indian Express newspaper, in a page-one report headlined, "What has been withheld from all," said the inquiry into the 1984 assassination cast suspicion on Rajendra Kumar Dhawan, then-personal secretary of Indira.

Dhawan, 52, did not continue in his post after Indira's son, Rajiv Gandhi, took over as prime minister. He was reintroduced last month as an officer on special duty in the powerful cabinet secretariat.

In its report, the newspaper said the inquiry by Supreme Court Justice M.P. Thakkar showed that "consciously or unconsciously Dhawan may have facilitated the commission of the crime."

The Indian Express said the Thakkar report had accused Dhawan of lying during questioning and giving unconvincing explanations about suspicious entries in his diary, which included the name of one of the assassins.



Towering inferno

Relax grip, US urges Israel

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Agencies): US officials have asked Israel to ease its grip on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip while US policy-makers ponder ways to promote Middle East peace talks.

Secretary of State James Baker broached the proposal in a 45-minute meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and also told him the situation in the occupied territories was "untenable," a senior US official said afterward.

While the atmosphere was relaxed, Baker told Arens without getting into specifics that a calmer environment was essential "to create conditions that will allow for direct talks," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We certainly want to reduce tension," Arens told reporters after meeting with Baker. But, Arens added: "It's not easy to do that considering the violence in the area at the present time."

Arens then met with President Bush at the White House for a half-hour and also with Vice-President Dan Quayle.

A statement issued after Bush met Arens was watered down from what reporters expected might emerge.

New ideas

Instead of specifically urging Israel to moderate its behaviour in the occupied territories, where Palestinians have staged a 15-month-old uprising, Bush called for "progress, new ideas," and stressed that "the United States does not want to miss an opportunity for peace in the Middle East."

"We didn't arrive at any finalised or defined positions," Arens said afterward. "I think it is probably premature to expect that at this point."

Arens raised questions about the talks the United States is having with the PLO.

Arens told Israeli reporters he had informed Bush the dialogue would not contribute to the peace process. The PLO, he said, is still engaged in three levels of terrorism — against Israelis in southern Lebanon, by calling for violence in the territories and against Palestinians who disagree with Yasser Arafat's organisation.

The PLO is pressing for direct talks with Israel, with the goal of establishing a Palestinian state adjacent to Israel.

Baker stressed any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must "address the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people," the senior US official said.

Baker reaffirmed the US commitment to Israel's security and said, "We can and must find a way to move ahead" toward an overall settlement.

Baker described the actions he urged on Arens as "various reinforcing and reciprocal steps which might be taken to defuse the tension there."

(See Page 4)

Savage fighting kills 50 in Beirut

BEIRUT, March 14, (Agencies): Christian-led Army troops and Muslim militiamen fought today with artillery, rockets and tanks, sending dozens of shells crashing into residential neighbourhoods and killing at least 50 people, including children on their way to school.

Christian leader Major General Michel Aoun declared that a battle had begun to drive Syrian forces from the country. But there was no independent confirmation of his charge that some of the 25,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon had joined the fighting.

Police said the fighting, the worst in four years, broke out along a line stretching from Beirut to the hills overlooking the city after pro-Syrian Muslim militiamen shelled two Christian-run ports in East Beirut.

Dozens of long-range artillery shells slammed into towns and villages as far as Chitaura, a Syrian-held market town 22 miles east of Beirut. Seven shells struck the heart of Chitaura, killing two people, and another hit a car on the town's outskirts, killing its four occupants, police said.

The two sides fought with machine-guns and rockets across the three-mile-long "Green Line."

One shell hit the garage of the American University Hospital in West Beirut, starting a fire, witnesses said. The fire was extinguished and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Fighting also erupted around Souk Al Gharb, a hilltop garrison seven miles southeast of Beirut, between Christian units of the Lebanese Army and Druze militiamen, police said.

It spread hours later to the mountainous Upper Metn region, 13 miles northeast of Beirut, with gunners from the two sides trading rocket and artillery fire, police said.

In all at least 50 people were killed, including at least four children and five government soldiers, and 145 were wounded in the clashes, police said.

Several shells crashed into the Army-held Beirut harbour and the port of Jounieh, 12 miles north of Beirut. Jounieh is controlled by the Army and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia.

Aoun's government, which competes for power with a Muslim-led rival backed by Syria, charged that Syrian forces had joined the fighting. Muslim military sources denied it.

Aoun told a press conference that "the cabinet decided to take all measures for the immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon as soon as possible."

Aoun vows to oust Syrians



Lebanese Army troops and rescuers search for casualties among burnt out cars after shells pounded a street in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Halt fighting, Sabah urges Lebanese

'Back Palestinians'

RIYADH, March 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today said the Palestinian issue is the pivotal cause of all Muslims and urged Islamic nations to lend greater support for the just struggle of the Palestinians.

Sheikh Sabah, addressing a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), hailed the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, saying Israel's iron-fist policy is doomed to fail.

The Kuwaiti official stressed that fair and durable peace in the Middle East can only be attained through complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, Syria's Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

Palestinians must regain their national rights, including sovereignty over their territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war if peace is to be achieved, Sheikh Sabah said.

The appropriate approach to peace in the region would be an international conference to be sponsored by the United Nations and attended by permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, he said.

Sheikh Sabah expressed satisfaction that the ceasefire was holding between Iran and Iraq and hoped lasting peace would prevail in the Gulf region.

He said he was also hopeful that the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations would clear the way for implementation of Security

■ **CONTACT:** Iran and Saudi Arabia are paving the way for a restoration of diplomatic relations, an Iranian official said. Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, deputy chief of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, told Arab Times' sister daily Al Seyassah preparatory contacts were under way to resume ties with Riyadh.

■ **SAUDI ARABIA:** which severed relations with Iran in April accusing Tehran of what it called enemy-like acts, said last month it was not holding secret talks with Iran.

■ **REPARATION:** The rebel Afghan government expects to gain control of the country "within weeks" and then will seek war reparations from the Soviet Union, a senior mujahideen official said. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, "foreign minister" in the provisional government, also told a news conference he "sees no excuse or justification for governments that delay recognition of our government."

■ **MEETING:** A team of Arab foreign ministers mediating in Lebanon's constitutional crisis will meet in Tunis on March 26 to prepare a report on their work so far, an Arab League spokesman has said. The ministers have had two rounds of talks with Lebanese leaders. The ministers met yesterday on the sidelines of the OIC meeting.

■ **RESIGNATION:** Two members of Sweden's Academy of Letters, guardian of the Nobel literature prize, have resigned their life memberships over the committee's refusal to fully support author Salman Rushdie. Novelists Kerstin Ekman and Lars Gyllenstein said they could no longer be members of a body which had failed to condemn Iran's death threats against the author of The Satanic Verses.

■ **VISIT:** Saudi Arabia has for the first time allowed two Soviet political journalists to enter the kingdom. Cairo-based Vladimir Belakov, from the Pravda daily, and Bogatyrev Alexandre, representing the Tass news agency, are in Riyadh to cover the OIC meeting.

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آج کے اردو صفحات

- مرکز پنجاب میں مذاکلات
- منس کرچکا ہے نظیر
- کراچی میں طالب بھڑک اٹھے
- فائرنگ
- بیروت میں مسلمان اور عیسائی فوجیوں کے درمیان
- جلال آباد پر قبضے کی جنگ جاری ہے
- راجکو کے مشیر برائے انداز کے قتل میں باہر کا شائبہ

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with light variable to moderate north-westerly wind may freshen at times causing dust.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 7.00 am, 4.00 pm

Low water: 11.00 am, 11.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.58 am

Sunset: 5.56 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Ahmad: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 24°C 75°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 60°F

Ahmad: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Ahmad: 23°C 73°F

Falaka: 22°C 72°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 68 per cent

Ahmad: 83 per cent

Falaka: 96 per cent

Ceasefire violations reported

Gulf talks 'in April'

NICOSIA, March 14, (Agencies): Iran today repeated a demand that Iraqi troops leave its territory but said it was willing to resume stalled peace talks during the Muslim Ramadan fast next month.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati made the offer after sources at the United Nations said Iranian objections to negotiations during the holy month could postpone talks originally set for New York this month.

To show our goodwill we propose the third week of April to start the talks again," Velayati said in an interview with the official IRNA news agency.

Iraq today said Iranian troops fired across the tense frontier and that Iraq soldiers returned the shots.

An Iranian military official, quoted by IRNA, said Iraqi forces fired on Iranian positions on the southern front, sparking a seven-hour exchange of fire last night.

Meanwhile, the US naval force in the Gulf is preparing for its biggest shakeup since the ceasefire, with a new commander taking over and three Navy minesweepers ending their 18-month duty tours in the waterway.

28 Filipino rebels held

MANILA, March 14, (UPI): Government troops have arrested 28 communist guerrillas in raids aimed at defusing insurgent plans to mount an offensive to celebrate the 20th founding anniversary of the rebel army, military officials said today.

The military reported six rebels of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) and a soldier were killed in two clashes today in central Philippines, bringing to 84 the number of people killed in insurgency-related incidents last week.

In a separate development, members of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos' cabinet said today they plan to visit the former leader in a Hawaii hospital to cheer him up.

Masked gunmen shoot dead 2 in Karachi

KARACHI, March 14, (Reuters): Masked gunmen on motorcycles killed two men in Karachi today, taking the death toll from five days of ethnic rioting in Pakistan's biggest city to 12, police said.

The killers sprayed bullets from Kalashnikov assault rifles and pistols, despite the presence in nearby streets of troops enforcing a curfew. Six people were injured, hospital sources said.

The two men were killed in the suburbs of Shah Faisal colony near Karachi International Airport and Malir, the police said.

The Army was sent yesterday to patrol the two areas after incidents of rioting, looting, stabbing and arson between two rival ethnic communities.

The cause of the latest outbreak was not generally known.

University teachers reported gunbattles between rival groups of students in at least five Karachi colleges today.

Students affiliated to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the right-wing fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami organisation had been fighting for 10 days, the teachers said.

They did not know the cause of the dispute, but rival bodies have clashed over students' union election in the eastern city of Lahore several times in recent days.

Bombs kill 17 in Assam

GAUHATI, India, March 14, (Reuters): Two powerful time bombs killed 17 people and injured at least 50 today in the northeastern Indian state of Assam.

One went off in a crowded market, and the other almost simultaneously outside an oil refinery in the industrial town of Bongaigaon, police said in the state capital Gauhati.

Jalalabad still in government hands

PESHAWAR, March 14, (Reuters): About two dozen government helicopters flew into Jalalabad today as Western-backed rebels said they had made gains in their assault on the eastern Afghan city.

But official Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, and the Soviet news agency Tass said government forces have repulsed some 14,000 insurgents and 3,000 "Pakistani advisers" after a week of heavy fighting.

The transport helicopters arrived early in the day amid renewed heavy fighting around the city, guerrilla sources in neighbouring Pakistan said.

They said the guerrillas had shot down one of the helicopters with a US-supplied Stinger missile. Independent confirmation of the report was not available.

Two of the seven rebel parties based in Pakistan reported that an ammunition dump hit by guerrilla shelling in central Jalalabad had exploded last night.

The guerrilla sources said the rebels had overrun more government posts yesterday afternoon.

Government jets retaliated with heavy bombing, ending a lull which lasted for most of yesterday. Some of the bombs hit the airport perimeter, the sources said.

Tragedy in France

Killed for dating

SURESNES, France, March 14, (UPI): A young Moroccan student shot and fatally wounded his half-sister for dating a Frenchman because he "was not a Muslim," then killed his half brother and committed suicide at the end of the spree, police said today.

The incident happened yesterday afternoon at the Lycée Paul Langevin at Suresnes, a town on the southwestern outskirts of Paris.

"The boys reproached the girl for dating a Frenchman," other school students who witnessed the slayings told police. "What was unforgivable in their eyes was that the boyfriend in question was not a Muslim."

The girl was identified as Iham Jbali, 20. She died of bullet wounds at a local hospital at nearby Kremlin-Bicêtre yesterday.

Her A brother also died of bullet wounds at the hospital. Foch at Suresnes. The eldest actor in the tragedy, physics student and Muslim fundamentalist Samir Doulim, died instantly.

Karpov elected to Soviet parliament

MOSCOW, March 13, (Reuters): Anatoly Karpov, the former world chess champion, and woman cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya were among 63 people elected to the revamped Soviet parliament yesterday.

Soviet television showed Karpov and Savitskaya among five candidates who had secured seats representing peace organizations. Also winning a seat was writer Fyodor Burlatsky, a strong supporter of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

Karpov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Foundation, was world chess champion from 1975 to 1985 when he lost the title to the current holder, Gary Kasparov.

Savitskaya, the second Soviet woman in space after Valentina Tereshkova, took part in two flights in 1982 and 1984. During her second mission she became the first woman to walk in space.

In the new parliament 750 of a total 2,250 seats have been allocated to "public organiza-

tions" including the ruling Communist Party, which will elect its 100 members this week.

The National Council of Collective Farmers filled all its 58 seats today and the Architects' Union began debate on candidates for its 75 seats.

Of the remaining 1,500 seats about two-thirds will be contested by at least two candidates, unprecedented since the creation of the Soviet state.

In the Ukrainian city of Lvov, crowds chanting "boycott the

elections" fought with police, the Ukrainian Helsinki Watch human rights group said yesterday.

The group said thousands of people clashed with police during the illegal protest on Sunday. An official at the local newspaper, Lvovskaya Pravda, said the protests involved no more than a few hundred and passed off without serious incident.

Meanwhile, Soviet authorities published draft plans to give more power to the country's 15

republics while retaining firm control over prices and strategic matters.

The proposals, carried by Tass news agency, were issued for public discussion by the highest state body, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Publication of the draft followed several months of heated debate over decentralisation, with republics in the Baltic and in Transcaucasia demanding more political and economic autonomy.

Papandreou survives censure motion

ATHENS, March 14, (Reuters): Greece's Socialist government survived a bitterly fought no-confidence vote in parliament today but suffered embarrassing new defections during the vote.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou mustered 155 votes out of 300 to defeat the no-confidence motion but three prominent Socialist deputies abstained and were immediately thrown out of the party.

Papandreou, 70, called the result an overwhelming vindication of the policies of his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). He said the party was on course to win a new four-year term in general elections due on June 18.

The main opposition party, the centre-right New Democracy group, called the censure vote after opinion polls said new allegations against the government over a \$200-million bank scandal had severely damaged its popularity.

Damage

Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of New Democracy, said: "Mr Papandreou came out of the vote badly damaged. He is on his way to defeat in the June elections."

Papandreou has been under fire for five months over a public extramarital affair, questions about his health after heart surgery in September and major scandals in the arms industry and banking.

The defectors included former Justice Minister George Manghakis, former Education Minister Antonis Tritis and former deputy Welfare Minister Roula Kallamanki.

PASOK had 156 seats before the vote but following the expulsion of the dissident deputies was left with 153 seats. Two independent deputies voted with the government.

Two other PASOK deputies, also former ministers, left last year to protest at the government's handling of the scandals. They joined a new left-wing alliance grouped around the Communist Party.

Most beautiful married woman

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, March 14, (UPI): Lucia Boggiano de Zoeger, 23, of Peru was judged the most beautiful married woman in the world yesterday by winning the Mrs World Crown in a competition among women from 40 nations.

"It is a joy to take the trophy to my country and to help with world peace," said Mrs Peru, the wife of an agricultural engineer and the mother of two young daughters. The winner is from Ferrenafe, a small community near the northern coast of Peru in the department (state) of Lambayeque.

Power problem may shorten shuttle mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, March 14, (AP): An unexplained erratic pressure reading on a hydrogen tank forced Discovery's five astronauts to turn off several systems to conserve power today and raised the possibility of a shortened mission.

Mission control emphasized the trouble posed no threat to the crew or the mission but could cut the planned duration of the flight from five to four days.

The hydrogen tank, one of four, feeds the shuttle's power-producing fuel cells.

Pierre Thout, the capsule communicator in the control centre told Discovery commander Mike Smith to shut down several systems to assure the crew could complete a four-day mission and still have capacity to spend two extra days in orbit in case bad weather made it impossible to land on the fourth day.

Chile vows to protect fruit from contamination

SANTIAGO, March 14, (AP): The government has promised to protect Chilean fruit from further contamination and is blaming terrorists and communists for a cyanide scare that threatens one of the country's most lucrative exports.

The US Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers not to eat any fruit imported from Chile after traces of cyanide were found in Philadelphia seedless red grapes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The cyanide was discovered after an anonymous threat to poison Chilean fruit was telephoned to the US embassy in Santiago on March 2.

Interior Minister Carlos Caceres went on national radio and television last night and blamed "terrorism supported by international communism which does not hesitate in damaging not only our economic interests but also our social and moral interests."

Ousted

Chile has been under right-wing military rule since September 1973, when the armed forces ousted the elected government of Marxist President Salvador Allende. The coup was led by Gen Augusto Pinochet, the current President.

Despite the cyanide scare, Caceres said Chile "will continue to be a dependable supplier" to the international fruit market.

Security has been reinforced throughout the fruit-exporting process "from the crop to the port of destiny," he said.

Caceres said an investigation conducted after the anonymous caller said some export fruits would be laced with poison had uncovered no problem.

"We have now come from the anonymous threat to the concrete damage," he added.

Four days after the poisoning threat was made, the FDA said the call was "almost certainly a hoax," but that it would continue to examine samples of Chilean fruit.

After later confirming cyanide in the Philadelphia samples, the FDA urged that all Chilean fruit be removed from US markets and that shipments of Chilean fruit which had not yet been distributed should be held for testing.

"This may be an isolated incident, but we can hardly take that chance," FDA commissioner Frank Young said yesterday.

Hours later, Canadian officials urged stores in Canada to remove all Chilean produce.

Health Minister Perrin Beatty asked stores to remove Chilean produce from their shelves and advised Canadians to throw away any fruit and vegetables they know came from Chile or think may have come from there.

Joe Pusateri, owner of Pusateri's supermarket in downtown Toronto, said if he takes Chilean produce off his shelves, he won't have anything left to sell.

20 years in jail for selling cocaine

SYRACUSE, New York, March 14, (AP): A 60-year-old woman was sentenced yesterday to 20 years to life in state prison for selling a half-pound (.22 of a kilogram) of cocaine to an undercover police investigator.

The defence attorney for Martha Weatherspoon objected to the sentence as "a little harsh," noting that his client would be 80 before she is eligible for parole.

"At her age, it is life," said the lawyer, Hurdle Maye.

Weatherspoon, a Syracuse resident, was convicted in January of first-degree criminal sale and possession of a controlled substance and other drug-related charges.

National Party endorses Klerk

Botha loses mandate

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, March 14, (Agencies): The ruling National Party unanimously endorsed party leader Frederik de Klerk to replace President Pieter W. Botha, saying Botha's early retirement would be "in the best interests of the country."

The party has formally withdrawn Botha's mandate to rule.

The stunning vote yesterday by a parliamentary caucus came at the end of an emergency meeting of the party's highest policy-making body, summoned by De Klerk to plot a response to Botha's announcement on Sunday that he intended to serve out his term that expires with the life of parliament in March 1990.

The party's Supreme Federal Board and the 133-member caucus authorised De Klerk to discuss terms with Botha for a handover of power.

A party spokesman said members did not want a confrontation and acknowledged there "is no way we can get (Botha) out if he wants to resume his duties."

Botha, 73, suffered a stroke on Jan 18 and immediately appointed an acting president to serve on his behalf. Fifteen days later he surrendered leadership of the National Party, triggering De Klerk's election and the power struggle for the presidency.

As De Klerk pressed his bid to reunify the most powerful posts in the minority white government and began outlining his own plans to give fresh life to racial reform policies that had ground to a halt in recent years, Botha announced he would resume power tomorrow.

National Party caucus spokesman Con Botha said De Klerk informed the President of the vote and that Botha had been invited to meet with the caucus.

Emerging

A clearly pleased De Klerk, emerging from the parliament building last evening, said that "all discussions took place in a very good spirit."

Asked whether he was chosen to unify the two positions and become President, he said, "I am the leader in chief of the National Party, and the decision was in principle that the leader in chief of the National Party should be the state President."

The federal council's resolution, worked out in a 2-1/2 hour meeting and adopted unanimously by the caucus less than an hour later, will not prevent Botha from resuming his duties, the caucus spokesman said.

But he added that "the door has been left wide open for further discussions" on how long Botha will remain in office.

"It leaves the President free to decide when he would like to retire or to go through with the rest of his term of office. There's no way we can get him out if he wants to resume his duties. We certainly don't want a confrontation."

De Klerk, 52, is the National Party leader in the northern Transvaal province, the wealthiest and most populous of the country's four provinces. He has served in the cabinet since 1978.

One killed in barbers' quarrel

MANILA, March 14, (Reuters): Eight drunken Manila barbers fought each other with scissors and broken beer bottles in a quarrel today over whether exiled former ruler Ferdinand Marcos should be allowed back to the Philippines. One barber died in the fight, police said.



F.W. de Klerk, leader of South Africa's ruling white National party leaves after an emergency party meeting on Monday. (Reuters wire-photo)

'Back Palestinians'

(Continued from Page 1)

Council Resolution 598 in its entirety.

On Lebanon, Sheikh Sabah said the success of an Arab League committee trying to mediate peace in Lebanon largely hinges on the co-operation of the Lebanese themselves. Sheikh Sabah said a halt to the fighting and political rivalry in Lebanon could greatly help the committee complete its mission successfully.

Sheikh Sabah greeted the struggle of the Afghan mujahideen and pointed out that the OIC had continuously supported the Afghan people in their fight for liberation.

Sabah also urged the OIC to campaign for a world-wide ban of the controversial book The Satanic Verses and said the Islamic group must take deterrent action against such

insults to the Islamic faith.

Indonesia, Singapore and Tanzania today banned The Satanic Verses.

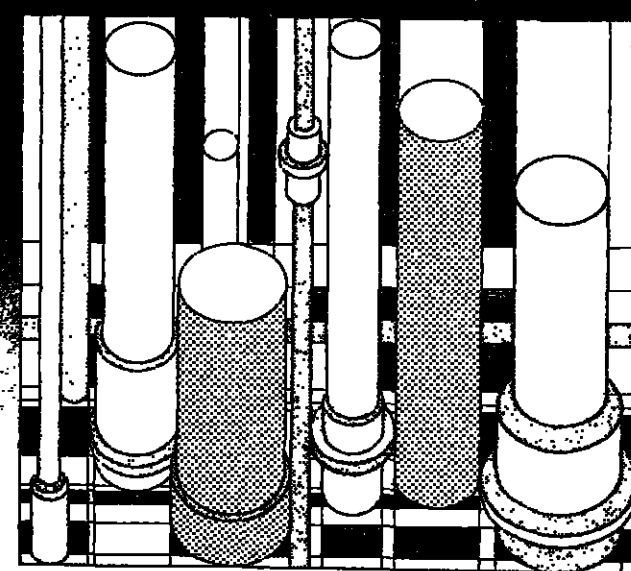
Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told a news conference the OIC would discuss a draft resolution proposed by Iraq dealing with cultural attacks on Islam.

"We are trying to handle it in a way that will serve (Muslim) interests... prevent any slander against our religion and ask for the co-operation of other states to prevent any measures that will inflame emotions," he said.

An Iranian official said that Islamic nations supported a hardline resolution attacking Western states and in effect urging Rushdie's assassination.

Other delegates said most OIC members preferred a more general condemnation of Rushdie's work and insults to Islam.

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INTERNATIONAL

Imagined heart ailment

Women face stress

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): When doctors wanted Lyn Frederickson to "whip into shape" female patients with "imagined illnesses," the cardiovascular nurse instead decided to investigate the health complaints of the women.

Frederickson said the "attract" directs the nation's first and only mitral valve prolapse centre in Birmingham, Ala.

Mitral valve prolapse or MVP is a heart condition that afflicts up to 10 per cent of the population. But two-thirds of the victims are healthy women, usually between the ages of 17 and 39, who complain of having a variety of symptoms.

Take Jane, for example. Frederickson said the "attract" five railroad in her 50s with a twinkle in her eye and a lovely smile "suffered fatigue, chest pains and other illnesses that forced her to cut back on numerous community activities."

Or, the male disc jockey who could barely work because he would have "panic attacks" when he sat in his booth. Anxiety attacks also struck another patient while grocery shopping, forcing her to run out of the store.

"It is not a life-threatening condition, but I do refer to it as a lifestyle threatening condition because it can be so unpleasant that (sufferers) avoid the things in life they really enjoy," said Frederickson, who is on a 20-city tour to promote her book about MVP.

"It seems to cross every socio-economic group. About one-third of the patients are men. I think sometimes when men have it, it can be even worse because our culture doesn't allow them to show sort of symptoms that we allow women."

During the civil war, men with MVP were often described as having a "soldier's heart," said Frederickson, explaining that the condition is considered hereditary and "triggered by a major life event or stress."

MVP sufferers have a slight variation in the shape or structure of the mitral valve of the heart, one of a number of valves that control blood flow between the four chambers. When the one-way valve that lies between the left filling chamber and left pumping chamber does not close fully, it sometimes cause a small amount of blood to leak back into the filling chamber from the pumping chamber.

Along with this minor structural problem often comes — for unknown reasons — an imbalance of the autonomic nervous system, which regulates such involuntary functions as breathing and digestion.

MVP symptoms usually come in combinations, with fatigue being a key trait. There can be chest

pains, irregular heart beat, migraine headache, anxiety, depression, aches in the neck, back, arm or leg, bowel trouble or memory problems.

Frederickson said panic attacks afflict about 60 per cent of all patients she treats.

"The word panic is really sort of a loaded word," admitted Frederickson. "It implies neurosis and that's not the case. It's a biochemical storm that occurs in the brain... that sudden rush of adrenaline. They can experience it up to seven times a day for about 30 minutes. It's just terrifying. They think they're dying or worse, crazy."

Research also has found about one-third of women with MVP have undergone hysterectomies and 60 per cent report severe problems with pre-menstrual syndrome.

Frederickson said the MVP centre at Baptist Medical Centre Montclair is the first and only centre to offer comprehensive treatment of the condition. The centre opened in April 1987 and has treated about 3,000 patients from 25 different states.

The patients undergo a battery of tests to determine the extent of the problem. Then they are put on "sensible diets that get rid of all caffeine and sugar." Specific medication also is recommended, as well as "low resistance repetitive" exercises.

"We believe that once we stabilise that rollercoaster, get it back in balance, get them on the right diet and exercise programme, (the symptoms) tend to stabilise and we can take them off medication," and they can again use sugar and caffeine in moderation.

The centre offers a 24-hour telephone line for people suffering from MVP-related problems, public forums and newsletters.

Frederickson is credited with starting the centre, along with Phillip Watkins, a cardiologist at BMC Montclair — after the idea was rejected by several other hospitals. She said the idea came about seven years ago when she worked for a large university medical centre in Alabama.

"For reasons I will never understand, physicians started referring to me young females with (MVP) for exercise," she said. "The doctors said put these girls in shape. I started listening to what they were telling me and they couldn't keep up with the cardiac patients who were 50 years older than they were."

"At that time, there was a lot of negative thinking about these girls," she said, noting most MVP sufferers spend years going from doctor to doctor. The cost for all the centre's services is about \$950. But Frederickson said most patients spend about half — "which is a bargain because they already have spent thousands of dollars trying to identify the problem."

Demography

Divorce rate higher in US

MADISON, Wis., March 14, (UPI): A study shows that two-thirds of all first marriages in the United States end in divorce or separation, dispelling the notion that the traditional family is returning, two University of Wisconsin researchers say.

"Some articles have said the traditional family is coming back," researchers Teresa Castro said.

The data Castro and UW sociology professor Larry Bumpass collected from 15,000 interviews showed the rate of divorce or separation may be worse for the second marriages.

The study, published in the most recent edition of the journal, Demography, shows teenagers separate twice as often as those married at ages over 22.



Anti-stress

The latest rage on the French Riviera is these "anti-stress" glasses which display changing colours and play soothing sounds through headset. (Reuter radiophoto)

Biologist finds tiny world truly paradise

ORACLE, Arizona, March 14, (AP): Marine biologist Abigail Alling ended five days of isolation in a tiny greenhouse-like enclosure on Monday and said the experimental environment was "truly paradise."

"What surprised me was how easy and relaxed the whole thing was," Alling said after stepping out of the 23-foot-square enclosure that cut her off from the rest of earth's environment.

The miniaturised ecosystem inside the test module provided her air, food, water and all other needs for her survival. She lived in the module in preparation for a longer experiment when eight scientists plan to stay in a larger but equally sealed-off structure for two years.

The privately funded research mission, called Biosphere II, is designed to see whether human beings can exist in a completely

enclosed world, possibly as a precursor to space colonisation. Four men and four women, who call themselves "biospherians," are scheduled to enter a 2-1/2-acre structure in September 1990 for a two-year stay.

In the biosphere experiments, plants and organisms are used to purify the air and water and to replenish the oxygen supply, according to Margaret Augustine, the project director.

Food is grown, harvested and prepared inside the biosphere, and wastes and biologically treated and recycled for fertiliser, she said.

Alling said she busied herself by harvesting and cooking her own food.

The test module is a self-contained greenhouse about the size of a single-car garage. It is topped with a futuristic steel-and-glass canopy.

Earthquake caused by mine blast hits Germany

BERLIN, March 14, (UPI): An earthquake believed triggered by a blast in a salt mine damaged 80 per cent of an East German town and shook populated areas from West Germany to the Soviet Union, officials said.

The East German news agency said the five-second quake on Monday afternoon measured 5.5 on the open-ended Richter scale and was centred near the East-West German border. An earthquake with a magnitude of five or higher is capable of causing considerable damage.

In Washington, US Geological Survey spokesman Don Finley said the epicenter was about 25 miles (40 km) northeast of Fulda, West Germany, and 75 miles (120 km) northeast of Frankfurt. The quake occurred at 2:02 pm and appeared to be the largest one ever recorded in the area, he said.

The East German news agency said several people were hurt by falling chimneys in the Vacha and Voelkerhausen areas of Bad Salzungen near the West German border, 185 miles (300 km) southwest of Berlin.

It said the tremor damaged 80 per cent of the buildings in Voelkerhausen and some residents were evacuated to temporary shelters.

Although the quake shook populated areas in West Germany, including Frankfurt, officials reported no casualties or damage. The tremor also was registered in the Soviet Union, the news agency said.

Buildings were damaged, power was cut and a number of roads had to be closed in the area of the quake. Police, firemen and volunteers converged on the stricken region and began clearing rubble while a commission of specialists and officials went to investigate the cause of the tremor, the news agency said.

It said the earthquake was triggered by underground blasting in the Ernst Thaelman salt and potash mine in Bad Salzungen, East Germany. Miners working near the blast site were evacuated after the quake, but the news agency did not say whether any were injured.

Finley said it was possible an explosion could trigger a quake. "If an earthquake is about to happen relatively soon, an underground explosion could be the last straw to trigger it," Finley said.

Third quake
● MEXICO CITY: The third earthquake in 24 hours shook Mexico on Monday, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

An earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale was registered in the border area between Mexico and Guatemala, authorities said.

The National University Seismological service said that a quake was registered at 3:43 am and that its epicenter was in Guatemala.

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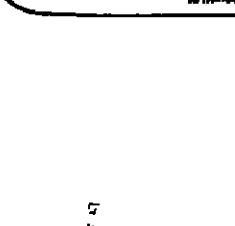
Cutler Kettle
Cutting, mincing, pounding of vegetables, fruits, meats, dried herbs and seasonings.
Making of butter, mayonnaise.



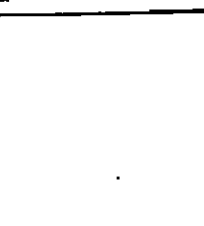
Grinding Cutter
Grinding of nutmeg, whole nut, coriander.



Slicing Cutter
Slicing fine of onion, cabbage, cutting to shape meats.



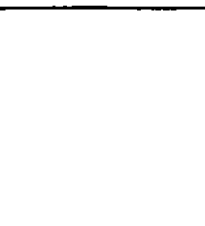
Chopping Cutter
Slicing length of carrot, potato, cucumber.



Mixing Device
Forming, whipping of egg.



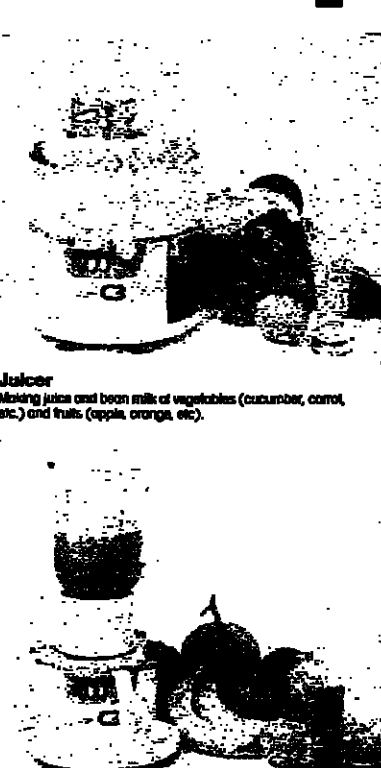
Vacuum cleaner
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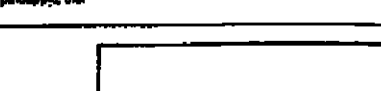
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Vacuum cleaner
Compact low noise powerful suction.



Mixer
Mixing juice and soup of strawberry, banana, apple, tomato, pineapple, etc.



Crusher
Crushing of dried soybeans, garlic, dried anchovy, dried shrimp, seaweed, etc.
Mixing flour from beans, rice, barley, etc.
Making rice of ground, coffee beans, etc.



Vacuum cleaner
Compact low noise powerful suction.

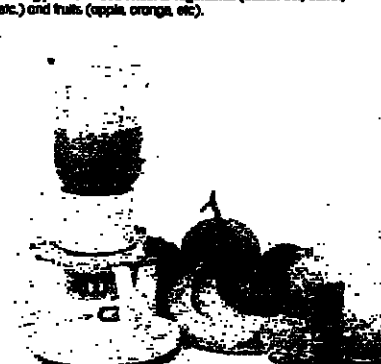


Kaiser

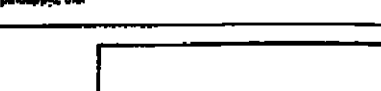
3 in 1

JUICER
Mixer
CRUSHER

Juicer
Mixing juice and soup of vegetables (cucumber, carrot, etc.) and fruits (apple, orange, etc.).



Mixer
Mixing juice and soup of strawberry, banana, apple, tomato, pineapple, etc.



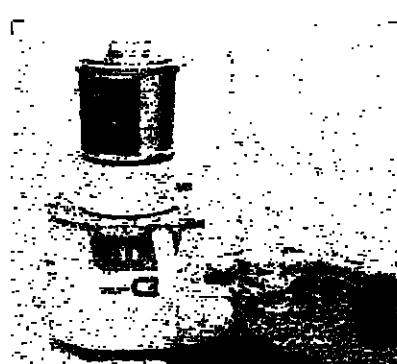
Crusher
Crushing of dried soybeans, garlic, dried anchovy, dried shrimp, seaweed, etc.
Mixing flour from beans, rice, barley, etc.
Making rice of ground, coffee beans, etc.



Vacuum cleaner
Compact low noise powerful suction.



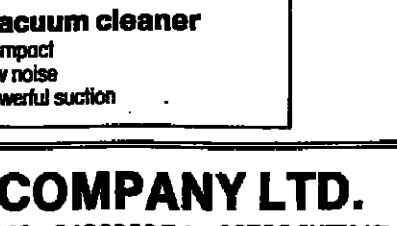
Vacuum cleaner
Compact low noise powerful suction.



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SDI chief proposes new way of Star Wars

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): Departing SDI chief James Abrahamson urged the Pentagon to give its first priority to a space-based system using thousands of "brilliant pebbles" to destroy enemy missiles, if it is short on SDI funds, it was learned today.

In a Feb 9 memo to Deputy Secretary of Defence William Taft, the retiring lieutenant general said the system could be ready for production in two years and deployable in five years at a total cost of about \$10 billion.

A copy of Abrahamson's memo was provided to United Press International by the Centre for Peace and Freedom, a conservative organisation that has promoted an early deployment of "Star Wars," formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative.

A "brilliant pebble," is a single small space-based sensor-interceptor that would be able — using off-the-shelf technology — to find, home in on a rising missile and destroy it without explosives, using the kinetic energy of a direct hit to knock out a missile.

"Once demonstrated, the future costs of research, development and deployment of this concept should be well within \$10 billion," Abrahamson said in a more detailed attachment to his memorandum.

Abrahamson, who retired and has been replaced by Lt. Gen. George Monahan, said a separate surveillance satellite system for independent validation of attack and backup telecommunications should not cost more than \$11 billion.



Superdog

Hot Toddy the pug has the Superman suit, but not the super powers that go with it, so there's no escaping the ties that bind him to his cage. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ceausescu criticised

Diplomat held

VIENNA, March 14, (AP): Romania today said it has charged with spying a senior diplomat whose father and five other veteran communists reportedly petitioned President Nicolae Ceausescu to stop repressing his people.

In a bold challenge to the autocratic Romanian leader, the six demanded in a January letter that Ceausescu improve human rights and stop exporting food from his shortage-plagued country, emigre sources say.

The official Romanian news agency Agerpres said Mircea Raceanu, who was arrested on Jan 31 in Bucharest, had been charged with spying for a foreign power and engaged in "steady treasonable action" since 1974. The agency made no mention of the letter.

Agerpres did not name the power. Raceanu had served for several years in Romania's embassy in Washington in the 1970s and as deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's US desk in Bucharest. Sources said he was arrested en route to the US ambassador's residence.

Iran-Contra case

North was secretive on Contra funds

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Reuters): Oliver North kept National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane in the dark about his fund-raising for the Nicaraguan Contras and a plan to funnel to them profits from arms sales to Iran, McFarlane testified.

McFarlane, North's boss at the Reagan administration National Security Council (NSC), said in testimony on Monday that North also doctored old memos and drafted letters in response to two congressional inquiries into North's activities regarding the Contras.

In his second day on the stand in North's trial on 12 criminal charges in the Iran-Contra affair, McFarlane repeatedly took responsibility for NSC mistakes, saying North was not to blame.

"I'm wrong in what I did," McFarlane said, adding that he was convinced North had not solicited funds for the Contras when Congress had outlawed such aid, and did not provide tactical support to the anti-Sandinista fighters.

Under prosecution questioning, McFarlane said North drafted responses to letters from the House of Representatives intelligence committee and foreign affairs subcommittee on Latin America.

Both responses he specifically denied breaking the spirit of the letter of the Boland Amendment, the law that cut off aid to the Contras in October 1984.

Earlier witnesses have detailed how North would meet publicly and privately with potential private donors to the Contra cause, armed with price lists of military goods including missiles and ammunition, but would leave the room when the actual donations were made.

McFarlane testified that he was not informed of such fund-raising activities at the time, nor did he know about trips North made to Dallas and New York for meetings with potential donors.

McFarlane, who has already been sentenced after pleading guilty to four counts of lying to Congress in the Iran-Contra case, said he was not told about a plan to divert funds from an arms sale to Iran to the Contras until May 1986.

McFarlane's testimony apparently bolsters the prosecution contention that North was the linchpin in the Contra aid operation and put himself above the law.

North's attorneys say the ex-Marine was acting on orders from the highest officials in the nation, including then-President Ronald Reagan.

In other instances, McFarlane's testimony showed, he and North glossed over details when responding to congressional inquiries.

McFarlane and North responded negatively to Congress when asked whether he had advised private contributors on how they might donate money to the rebels.

"I didn't believe he was taking money himself," said McFarlane. "I did believe he was referring people to the Contra office."

ICAO not to condemn US

MONTREAL, March 14, (KUNA): The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has decided not to condemn the United States for the downing of Iran Air A-300 Airbus last July in the Arabian Gulf.

The Montreal-based organisation instead, asked ICAO President Assad Kotaite to prepare a resolution accepting the recommendations of an internal review commission. The resolution will not change ICAO guidelines but will ask every member country to conform to them more strictly.

The absence of finger pointing was a source of pleasure for US delegate Edmond Stohr.

Give details of death: legislator

Israeli practices in occupied areas draw criticism

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 14, (AP): A leftist legislator has called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to provide information on the deaths of 13 Palestinians, including two 12-year-old boys and three prisoners, who officials said committed suicide.

Parliament Member Dedi Zucker, of the Citizens' Rights Movement Party, detailed the deaths in a letter sent yesterday to Rabin.

"When the investigations (into the deaths) are completed and there are results, we will let him know," said Rabin's spokesman Eitan Haber, in response to questions about the letter.

Israel has drawn international criticism for its methods in quelling the 15-month-long Palestinian anti-Israeli revolt. A US State

Department report issued last month said Army practices resulted in "many avoidable deaths and injuries."

Zucker's letter described the deaths of 13 Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seven were killed during or after clashes with troops and six died in prison, the letter said.

Zucker said that among the deaths in question were those of two residents of Yatta village in the West Bank, who he said were gunned down on Oct 9, 1988. The Army spokesman said the two residents were killed in a clash with troops, but Zucker questioned that version of events.

"Local residents claim the victims were killed with premeditation, with no provocation," he

said. "They claim that the killers entered the village specifically to search for the two victims, who were among the leadership of the uprising in the village."

Zucker said that as in many of the cases, an investigation was launched but never completed. A military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Army investigations can span several months because Palestinians do not co-operate with the authorities, and often bury their dead in haste before an autopsy can determine the cause of death.

Zucker's letter also mentioned the deaths of two 12-year-old boys. Badr said Karab of the West Bank's Nablus city died of injuries reportedly sustained when he was thrown out of an Army jeep, and Anwar Hamiel,

of the West Bank, was shot last November "while running away, and at short range," Zucker charged.

"The boy was fatally wounded, yet could not be evacuated to a hospital for several hours because the Army did not open the road leading from the village to Nablus, the nearest city," Zucker said.

The letter said Iyad Akl, 17, of Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, was beaten by a group of soldiers for several hours, and then abandoned in a field. Another beating victim, Adnana Hanafa of Nablus who died in October, was brought to hospital with hands in plastic handcuffs of the type used by the Army, Zucker said.

Palestinians urged to step up uprising

Israel doves praised

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 14, (Reuters): Leaders of the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising have praised Israeli peace activists and urged Arabs to step up clashes with Israeli security forces, Palestinian sources said today.

In leaflets distributed overnight, the revolt's underground leadership accused the United States of bias towards Israel and ordered attacks against paramilitary border police who have replaced regular troops in some areas.

"We insist that the uprising continue and escalate... let (Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin know we will confront the border patrol with more violence and defeat them, their fate will be no better than that of the Army," the leaflets said.

Rejecting US pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organisation to end border raids into Israel from Lebanon, the uprising's leaders lambasted Washington as "the defender of Zionist terror."

"The US administration's still trying to carry out political blackmail against the Palestinians by its one-sided media statements refusing to differentiate between terror and legitimate resistance," the leaflets said.

The communiqué singled out for praise Israel's "Peace Now" movement which has held rallies against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged the government to talk to the PLO.

"The unified leadership of the uprising salutes the stand taken by Peace Now... We will not stand in the way of any kind of solidarity with the uprising and our people," it said.

Israel decided to replace troops with border police in some heavily-populated Arab areas amid efforts to project a more moderate image ahead of a visit to Washington by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But Israeli Foreign Ministry sources said that by rejecting in advance expected US demands to end anti-Israel violence, the latest Palestinian communiqué eased pressure on the Jewish state to make concessions.

The sources said Washington had made no direct demand for concessions but had leaked its wishes to US news media to make sure Israel got the message.

The leaflets called for a general strike on March 21 to mark the first anniversary of the US closure of PLO offices in Washington and told Palestinians to send protest telegrams to US officials here and the United States.

The leaflet named March 27 as a general strike day. Troops in Jabalya, the Gaza Strip's largest Palestinian refugee camp, shot and wounded at least three residents in clashes there today and protesters fled into a UN school and clinic, witnesses said.

Police in Arab East Jerusalem fired teargas to disperse Palestinian schoolgirls who stoned an Israeli bank and tried to barricade a street, a police spokesman said.

There was no immediate report of injuries or arrests.



PLO representative Nabil Shaath, (right) and Israeli Knesset member Shulamit Aloni during a press conference. (Reuter wirephoto).

Mideast seminar

Points for peace

NEW YORK, (Agencies): The first jointly-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian peace conference agreed on principles that organisers hope will be the basis for an international settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The principles were outlined by the initiating sponsors of the three-day seminar-style conference at Columbia University, site of the meeting.

Among the principles: ● A just and permanent peace should be established in the Middle East that provides all peoples, including Palestinians and Israelis, equal rights and opportunities.

● A settlement should be contingent on an end to the Israeli occupation that resulted from the 1967 war and based on mutual recognition of equal national rights to self-determination and on peaceful coexistence.

● A settlement should include a solution to all aspects of the problem of the Palestinian refugees.

● All differences should be resolved through negotiations by legitimate representatives of all parties: The PLO for the Palestinians and the government of Israel for the Israelis.

● For the peace process to be advanced, a moratorium on all terrorism should be declared.

Creation of a state of Palestine on land now partially occupied by Israel was the theme of speaker after speaker at the news conference. Asked how long this would take, estimates ranged from five years to 15 years.

"There must be many stages before we reach a final solution," said Mordechai Bar-On, a member of the executive committee of the World Zionist Organisation. "There must be a building of confidence in each other, then a decision on how to accomplish it and with what speed."

Nabil Sha'ath, a PLO official who has often served as PLO chief Yasser Arafat's person envoy, said the conference made clear the final shape of interim arrangements for peace and created a climate for further negotiation.

Meanwhile, a former Israeli military commander attending the conference has praised the Palestinian uprising and says the occupied lands should be returned.

"The intifada (uprising) serves as an important means of educating the Israelis," said Matti Peled, a retired general who was in the military command that led Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

"I applaud women, boys and men who go unarmed and face Israeli forces," said Peled.

'Stop war in Sudan'

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Reuters): President Bush has called for a ceasefire in Sudan's civil war so humanitarian aid could reach victims and peace talks could begin.

"All friends of Sudan, of which I am one, urge those responsible for the continuation of this war to agree to an early ceasefire, to place peace above military and political considerations, and to negotiate peace," Bush said in a statement.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi will announce a broad-based government on Wednesday, deputy president of the

Umma Party Nassir-Eddin Al Hadi Al Mahdi said today.

Speaking to the daily Al-Khartoum, Nassir-Eddin said the government, expected to include 23 ministers, will group representatives of the political parties and the trade unions and associations that signed the programme of the government recently.

The cousin of the prime minister said consultation between the Umma Party and most of the political forces except the Democratic Unionist Party has been fruitful, adding talks with the DUP to name their minister is still continuing.

Two Mideastern suspects seen near Rogers' van

SAN DIEGO, March 14, (AP): Two men of Mideastern appearance were seen in the neighbourhood of the commander of the USS Vincennes in the weeks before the Navy captain's van was destroyed by a bomb, a law enforcement official said.

Sharon Rogers, wife of Capt. Will Rogers III, was alone in the van when the bomb detonated Friday while she drove alone to work. She got out of the van moments before it caught fire and was not injured.

Rogers gave permission last summer to shoot down a plane over the Gulf that was

presumed from radar data to be a fighter, but actually was an Iranian civilian passenger jet.

The official, who disclosed the information on condition of anonymity, said it was not clear if investigators had been able to piece together detailed descriptions of the two men. The information was based on interviews with neighbours, the official said.

The official spoke after a report in Monday's New York Times that one man of Middle Eastern appearance had asked passers-by: "Where does the captain live?"

FBI spokesman Gary Laturno said he could neither confirm nor deny the report.

Investigators, however, were beginning to move away from their suspicions that the bombing was directed from abroad by international terrorists, the Times reported today.

Sources told the Associated Press that based on intelligence information and initial reports from investigators, the explosive device was believed to be very crude and not of the quality that would be expected from prominent Iranian-supported terrorist groups.

Begin gives rare interview

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 14, (AP): Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin gave a rare interview to Israel Radio today to mark the 25th anniversary of a historic reconciliation between his right-wing Likud bloc and the rival Labour Party.

Begin, 75, has lived in seclusion since resigning his post in 1983. He refuses to speak out on political subjects but enjoys discussing history, though rarely on the air waves.

Asked by the radio to comment on the anniversary, Begin was full of praise for the late Labour leader Levi Eshkol's willingness to end the party feud by agreeing in March 1964 to bury Begin's mentor, Zeev Jabotinsky, in Jerusalem.



Octuplets born

AMMAN, March 14, (GNA): A Jordanian woman has given birth to four sets of twins, according to a Jordanian daily.

The births, the first of their kind to be recorded in Jordan, were delivered by Caesarean section.

According to sources, the mother had been suffering from chronic sterility. In her longing to conceive, she resorted to taking fertility pills without medical consultation or supervision.

No details on the condition of the mother or the twins has been reported, except that some of the infants are having medical problems.

Banker missing

BEIRUT, March 14, (AP): Prominent Lebanese international banker Roger Tamraz today was reported missing for the second time in less than one month.

The leftist As-Safir newspaper said in an unattributed front-page report that unidentified gunmen led Tamraz from his residence in West Beirut's Verdun area to an undisclosed location.

The terse report did not elaborate.

Ancient town

NICOSIA, March 14, (AP): Iranian archaeologists have unearthed a sprawling 2,000-year-old town at Shustar in southwestern Khuzestan province, Tehran Television reported.

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, said the excavators found four underground crypts built of mud-brick containing relief designs that were placed on wooden biers.

First groups

NICOSIA, March 14, (Reuters): A women's association and an organisation of Muslim clerics have become the first groups officially recognised under a new Iranian law on political parties, the Iranian News agency IRNA said.

It said the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Ayatollah Khomeini's daughter Zahra Mostafaei, and the combatant clerics, to which Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi belongs, had received official permits.

No more visas

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): Britain said on Monday it would close its visa office in West Beirut for an indefinite period for security reasons.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the operation, which employs only locally-engaged staff, would be suspended from today "until further notice." Visa and consular services in East Beirut will remain open, he added.

Prize poster

UNITED NATIONS, March 14, (UPI): A 14-year-old boy, who has lived through the war in Beirut, received Monday the first Lion Club's international prize for peace poster from a field of more than 100,000 contestants.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.



His Highness the Amir yesterday received Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah who introduced to him the mukhtars of Kuwait's various areas. HH said that all in this beloved country were responsible for their work in the interest of the country. HH also pointed out the importance of the mukhtar's role in serving their country and their role in maintaining security and stability and urged them to exert their utmost in carrying out their duties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir praised

KUWAIT, March 14, (KUNA): A local weekly magazine has praised HH the Amir, pointing out the attention he renders to the fields of science, culture and literature.

The magazine emphasised, in its latest editorial, the continuous care given by the Kuwaiti leadership to the people's welfare and its serious work to turn concepts into action and outline a sound basis for the world of tomorrow.

In this regard, the magazine pointed out HH the Amir's wise leadership in heading the process of administrative reform.

Anaemic women

ACCORDING to a medical study, 40 per cent of women in Bahrain are obese and 52 per cent pregnant women are anaemic.

A study prepared by the head of the nutrition unit at Bahrain's Health Ministry, Dr Abdul Rahman Msaqar, said that health problems caused by bad diet among GCC women are increasing and that high blood pressure, diabetes and heart diseases among women in the area indicate an alarming rise.

Rasul Hamzatov here

KUWAIT, March 14, (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed received today member of the Supreme Soviet and poet Rasul Hamzatov.

The discussions, in the presence of Acting Secretary General of the National Council Dr Farouk Al Omar, tackled fields of cultural co-operation between the two countries and means of upgrading them.

UAE crime statistics

AN official report issued by the UAE Interior Ministry has indicated that murder crimes have decreased during the last three years in the UAE.

It added that only 16 murder cases were reported in 1988, compared to 22 in 1985. Among those cases reported last year only 4 were premeditated.

The report added that the average for crimes of theft in the UAE is 2,900 annually. Seventy per cent of thieves are expatriates, while 30 per cent are UAE nationals.

Study in Glasgow

A PRESS release from the British embassy in Kuwait has said that the University of Glasgow, one of the oldest (founded 1451) and largest universities in Scotland, has recently decided to offer scholarships to cover the tuition fees for one year of study for undergraduate students paying full overseas fees, and studying in the faculties of Arts, Engineering, Science and Social Sciences.

The scholarships will be offered to students entering the first year of study, subject to satisfactory performance in the first three years of study.

Judicial sentences

TWO brothers, aged nine and 12 years and living in the Ras Al Khaima Emirate of the UAE, have a record number of judicial sentences issued against them.

The two brothers have committed 51 offences during the past three years and are well-known to judicial officials in Ras Al Khaima, according to the Khaleej newspaper published in the UAE.

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Reorganisation proposed

New insurance law to be enacted in '89

THE new law organising insurance activities in Kuwait will be enacted this year, according to an insurance official.

In an interview with a local daily, Hamad Al Bahar, the chairman of Kuwait Insurance Company described the 1988 period as difficult for the insurance sector in view of the absence of major government insured projects and diminishing comprehensive insurance policies by car owners.

Bahar expressed hopes, that this year will be better than the previous one — particularly in light of new developments following the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, in addition to the relative stability prevailing in the international oil market.

Competition

On the new insurance law, Bahar said that it is designed to be consistent with new developments in the local insurance arena and to protect rights of those insured.

He warned against hectic competition which is expected to be practised by foreign companies to secure insurance contracts at the expense of local companies and the insurance industry in general.

The greatest danger facing the insurance sector in Kuwait is the low prices of third party insurance compared to the compensation to be paid by insurance companies to victims of traffic accidents, Bahar said.

Housing minister to resolve problems of Dhahr residents

IN an effort to resolve the complaints of owners of damaged houses in the Al Dhahr area, State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan, met with a number of residents.

Speaking on the meeting, owners said that the intervention of the minister was opportune as it saved 134 families from being permanently relocated to Sabah Al Salem flats which lacked air-conditioning.

Some owners requested more time to stay at Sabah Al Salem flats — at least until the end of the holy month of Ramadan.



Nasser Al Roudhan

The general consensus is that officials should consider all precautions prior to choosing areas to establish residential cities. All facilities must be utilised to conduct adequate geological surveys to avoid problems previously witnessed in Al Zahra, an owner of a damaged house in the area said.

During last Ramadan, more than 80 families were evacuated to live in flats at Sabah Al Salem area and returned a week later to Zahra. In November 1988, 134 families were once again evacuated to Sabah Al Salem flats. They were promised that they would be returned to Zahra area within six weeks.

The proposals by the minister to the owners of the affected area are that they return to their original homes after providing the ministry a month to undertake geological studies while those interested in returning to the Zahra area, but not to their original homes, should move to Plot 4, or finally to have the freedom to look for any other house in other residential areas as a replacement.

According to a poll, most residents are interested in returning to their original homes to avoid financial burdens.

Teachers' status to be enhanced: Khodari

THE low salaries paid to teachers is attributed to their seeking supplementary jobs not commensurate with their status, according to a senior education official.

Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, the undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Education, said that the ministry has spared no efforts towards preserving the social position of teachers. He added that recently the ministry had issued a bulletin stipulating the work which teachers could practice out of office hours.

The Kuwait Teachers Society contributes significantly to wards upgrading the social position of teachers through its contributions to the Social Fund Project, and by organising tutorials to provide extra job opportunities for teachers over and above normal working hours, the official said.

University education poll

Scientific studies difficult: students

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of university students to determine the reasons for the lack of enrolment at science colleges.

Ghadah Mahmoud said the main reason was that lectures in science colleges were conducted in the English language, utilising scientific terminologies that were difficult to follow.

She blamed the earlier stages of education for the students' lack of command of English — particularly in Kuwait and the neighbouring countries. This has resulted in students preferring to enroll at arts faculties, where the English language plays a minor role.

Choices

She added that in engineering, chemistry and physics, most books and references are in English with only a very few of these books in Arabic.

Adel Al Sharrarh said that university education in general is pursued by students to satisfy individual choices. He added that teachers pay more attention to literary subjects, as scientific subjects require lengthy explanations. Thus, students are more prone to prefer literary subjects over sciences.

Mohammad Abdul Majeed said that there is a lack of well-knit policy to balance specialisations with national needs. Additionally, he said, there is no difference in salary and other benefits offered to graduates from different fields.

Sulaiman Habib said that the country is in need for more scientific specialisations. However, students prefer to graduate early to find jobs, and select arts as it requires 4 years to complete as compared to six years in science.

Arabisation

Adel Shahib said that teachers fail to simplify difficult scientific information, which result in students opting to take literary subjects.

Luna Saeed Farahat stressed the need to "Arabise" existing science subjects taught in English, and to create a better atmosphere for scientific research activities and offer decent incentives to students joining such colleges.

Anwar Al Otaibi highlighted the importance of teaching scientific subjects at very early stages, so that students could have ample opportunities to develop and upgrade their scientific talents and their preference for scientific subjects.

UN lauds Arab League efforts

Sheikh Sabah's role praised

UNITED NATIONS, March 14, (KUNA): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar paid tribute today to the Arab League efforts under Kuwaiti leadership to promote national reconciliation in Lebanon.

"There have been signs of progress in recent weeks, and I would like to take this opportunity to again express support for the efforts of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon, led by Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah," he said in a statement delivered on his behalf by Undersecretary-General Abdulrahman Farah to the foreign ministers meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Con-

ference in Riyadh.

Stressing the urgency for national reconciliation, the secretary-general reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

An important symbol of this commitment is the presence in the south of UNIFIL, whose mandate was recently renewed for another period of six months, he said.

Turning to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the secretary-general spoke of "promising developments" in the Middle East where "a comprehensive set-

tlement of the problem has become all the more urgent as a result of the intifada."

Stalemate

But he said that despite the momentum created on the diplomatic level late last year, the stalemate in the peace process continues and the situation in the occupied territory remains bleak.

The UN chief told the group he had repeatedly called on Israel to abide by its obligations under the fourth Geneva Convention whose applicability to the occupied territories has been reaffirmed many times by the Security Council.

Yet despite those appeal and the appeals of others in the international community, the death toll of innocent civilians, many of them women and children, continues to rise and collective punishments are widespread and imposed with total disregard for the human rights of the civilians living under occupation.

Initiatives

Perez de Cuellar said, he was nonetheless encouraged by the initiatives of certain member states of the international community, including several members of the Security Council, to take advantage of the opportunity created by the decisions of the

Palestine National Council last November in Algiers.

"The fact that there are now contacts between each of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties is a new and positive development, and we must capitalise on this," he said.

"What is needed today is an urgent effort by the international community, led by the Security Council, to promote an effective negotiating process based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Perez de Cuellar said.

Farewell to Royals

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Prince and Princess of Wales left Kuwait yesterday for Bahrain at the end of a three-day visit. They were seen off at the airport by Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and senior officials.

Prior to their departure, the royal couple visited the National Museum. "Ahlani wa Sahlan, Diana" sang the Kuwaiti children lining the route to the museum. Kuwaiti folk dancers moved in unison to the music of the Ardha (sword) dance, while more than 1,400 children — girl and boy scouts and children from the English schools — welcomed the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Diana and Charles were then received by the Information Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Rida Al Feeli, Director of the Sadu House Sheikh Al Sabah and Director of the National Museum Ibrahim Baghly.

Stunning

They broke off from the security men around them and shook hands and talked to more than 100 Britons who were allowed to get a glimpse of the royal couple. Diana looked stunning and radiant in pink, said an Englishman.

The Britons waited for more than two hours in the blustery weather for the couple to arrive at the museum.

Unfortunately, within minutes Charles and Diana were surrounded by photographers, despite the tight security which made it impossible for anyone to see where they were, said another Englishman.

Photographers were seen shoving and pushing in the scramble to get a shot of Diana and Charles before the security men took charge and pushed them aside. A large number of mediamen could not get to the museum because they did not have proper identification cards.

Demonstration

While the Princess watched a demonstration of bedouin weaving at the Sadu House, the Prince toured the National Museum. Later, the couple joined their hosts for a taste of Arab sweets and qahwa (coffee), while musicians played the "rababa" outside the tent in the museum grounds.

Charles received a "bishi" (Arabs dress) and Diana was presented with a "thoub" (Kuwaiti women's dress). The Sadu House presented a traditional bedouin rug and a cake of dates to Princess Diana.

To say farewell, the British community and the Kuwaiti chil-



Charles and Diana being seen off at the airport by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

dren showered the couple with confetti and flowers — roses and posies.

"It was great to see the British royalty; extremely exciting," said Salem Al Wawan of the Islamic Arts Museum.

The royal couple's next stop was the Gulf island state of Bahrain, where they received not the expected Gulf sunshine but a typical English welcome of heavy rain. UPI reported. The downpour quickly turned Bahrain's abundant sands to mud, the report said, but this failed to put off the many well-wishers who waved their drenched Union Jacks as the Prince and Princess were whisked off to lunch with members of the Bahraini ruling family.

Lunch

The Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, and his son Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, met the royal couple at Bahrain's International Airport and then accompanied them to Sheikh Isa's palace for lunch.

The Crown Prince of Thailand, Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, who was on a visit to Bahrain, was invited to the banquet held by the Bahraini

Amir at Gudsabiya Palace in honour of the royal couple. Also present was the Deputy Ruler of Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, Prince Fahd Bin Salman.

The visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to Bahrain, a British protectorate from 1861 to 1971, was described by the British embassy as "a very short private visit" before the couple moved on to Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Arrival

The UPI report said that later the same day the royal couple arrived in Abu Dhabi, where they were greeted at the airport by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan. Princess Diana will accompany Prince Charles during his four-day visit to the UAE, after which he will fly on to Saudi Arabia alone to conclude his tour of the region.

The royal tour coincides with the controversy in some Islamic states over the Salman Rushdie affair, but other than the presence of bodyguards from Britain's elite Special Air Service, there have been few signs of increased security.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Comprehensive medical examination of expats

IN view of the large number of expatriate workforce employed in Bahrain, like the neighbouring Gulf States, the government has been particularly concerned in ensuring stringent precautions in maintaining a healthy environment for the protection of the general population of the country. Bahrain has pursued a liberal policy of welcoming workers from all parts of the world in modern times. The traditional hospitality and "cosmopolitan spirit" of this tiny island nation is well known throughout the region.

However, with the increase of expatriate workforce, the government began an official programme to examine the general health of incoming foreign workers. In 1976, Bahrain formed the Medical Commission to implement a comprehensive medical examination of expatriates arriving in the island for employment. In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Dr Ramsay Foyez, head of Medical Commission highlighted the role and achievements of this unique state entity.

According to Foyez, the medical commission conducts a thorough medical examination of every expatriate as a pre-employment condition strictly enforced by the government before granting permission to work in the country.

Rules

"Medical Commission rules and regulations are strictly applied to every foreign worker regardless of nationality or the place he or she has come from," stressed Foyez.

He added that the commission is primarily concerned about people infected with serious chronic or contagious disease, particularly TB and leprosy. The purpose of the examination is to ensure that the person is medically fit to take up employment and to safeguard the general good health of the rest of the community.

In 1988 a total of 43,632 expatriate workers were examined by the Medical Commission. The figure includes 3,443 government employees. Out of the total, 229 were assessed on age factors, 5,082 represented people under "immature retirement", disability through accidents and sick leave endorsement. A total of 95 expatriates were declared medically unfit and repatriated. Out of this 84 contracted TB and 11 Leprosy.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING is more unjust or capricious than public opinion — William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).

Lebanese port blockade

Picking a fight

By Zina Hemady

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Lebanon could be facing renewed civil war fighting as Christian Army chief Michel Aoun tries to crush heavily-armed militias and challenge Syrian influence.

Major General Aoun and his Christian government in East Beirut appeared to offer an olive-branch on Monday, allowing the capital's airport, in the Muslim sector, to reopen after a two-day closure under what airline officials saw as an implied threat of artillery bombardment.

But troops of Lebanon's rival Muslim government shelled the capital's Christian-held sea port anyway.

Political analysts said Aoun virtually picked a fight with Muslim and Druze leaders last week by sending patrol boats to blockade illegal harbours serving their militia fiefdoms south of Beirut.

As a result, Aoun's Army and Syrian-backed Druze militiamen fought their fiercest battles in two years at the weekend, ending a period in which Lebanese bloodshed has been mainly within the various sectarian communities.

"Aoun would be naive to think he could ... close the ports without sparking severe retaliation," a pro-Syrian politician said.

The pirate havens which Aoun is trying to shut down are vital sources of funds, food and fuel for Lebanon's sectarian and political militias and are used to import arms and export drugs grown in the Bekaa valley.

The blockade applies to Christian militia harbours north of Beirut as well as those south of the capital.

A political analyst said battles between Aoun and his Muslim and Druze enemies would probably be confined to the mountains around Beirut.

"But the situation may get out of hand and fighting may spill over to other areas," he said.

Shiite militia leader Nabih Berri said on Monday he would hold Aoun responsible for any all-out conflict.

"The reopening of Beirut's airport is not enough. He has to end his sea blockade," Berri said.

Aoun has been head of a Christian administration since September. The rival Muslim-led government under Selim Al Hoss is backed by Syria. Both Aoun and Hoss have armies of about 15,000 men.

A pro-Syrian politician said it was unclear whether Syria — with 25,000 troops stationed over two-thirds of Lebanon — would be involved in any fighting.

Syrian troops rarely go into battle, leaving the fighting to their allies the Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Shiite Amal militia.

Aoun's campaign against private armies started last month with fighting against the Lebanese Forces (LF), a right-wing militia long dominant in the Christian heartland.

"Aoun's popularity rose after his crackdown on the LF," an Arab analyst said. But "he cannot justify hitting the LF if he does not also strike Muslim militias."

Three pirate harbours south of Beirut are controlled by the PSP and Amal. Two north of the capital are under LF control and two further north are used by a Syrian-backed Christian group, Suleiman Franjeh's Marada.

The Arab analyst said Muslim militias feared that giving up the ports would make them dependent on Christian areas for wheat, petrol and other basics.

Rival factions in the 14-year-civil war have frequently widened conflicts by shelling each other's ports and the airport, which has sometimes been closed for months.

Cairo is nerve-wracking

By John Rogers

CAIRO, (Reuters): The young businessman wept in frustration as he ran up a Cairo street kicking at a ramshackle car slowly rattling away.

He was one more victim of urban stress in this ancient city of mosque, minarets and 15 million people, where modern life — and especially the automobile — has put increasing strain on a relaxed, traditional society.

In the case of the young businessman, his anguish was caused by the old car stopping so suddenly in heavy traffic that his vehicle had smashed into its rear.

His reaction was one example of a problem that some experts reckon is serious. Others believe the easy-going attitudes of Egyptians will see them through anything, though few deny there is a problem.

"I've noticed a terrific change over 10 years in the Egyptian character," said Carol-Ann Clouston, a Canadian teacher of singing and relaxation therapy.

"I notice changes in the faces in the street. They're starting to pull in. People are starting to hug themselves. Maybe it's an effect of feeling crowded — wanting to protect yourself against all that noise." An endless stream of traffic on the big squares, overpasses, tangled streets and alleys of the largest city in Africa and the Middle East is to blame.

And there's not much room on the pavements. More than 25 per cent of Egypt's fast-growing population, currently 52 million, lives in the capital.

Cairenes' enthusiastic use of the car horn, day and night, punctuates a constant buzz of noise from traffic, construction, roadworks, radios and a million voices.

Navigating Cairo is a nerve-wracking art. From Mercedes limousines to donkey carts, hardly a vehicle is without dents.

Traffic rules go largely ignored in the race to be first — or at least ahead of the car in front. Red "stop" lights carry authority only when a policeman is there — and then not always.

TODAY IN HISTORY

44 B.C. — Roman dictator Julius Caesar is assassinated.

1560 — Huguenot conspiracy at Amboise fails to rescue King Francis II of France from Guise factions, and Prince of Conde subsequently is imprisoned by the Duke of Guise.

1603 — Samuel de Champlain, French navigator and explorer, sails for the New World.

1776 — US Congress resolves that authority of British Crown should be suppressed.

1874 — France assumes protectorate over Central Indochina region of Annam, which breaks off vassalage to China.

1894 — France and Germany agree on boundaries between French Congo and Cameroons.

1903 — British conquest of northern Nigeria is complete.

1916 — US force of 12,000 soldiers under General J. Pershing is ordered to Mexico to capture revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.

1921 — Rwanda, East Africa, is ceded to Britain by Belgium.

1943 — Japanese planes attack Darwin, Australia, in World War II.

1962 — US military training personnel in South Vietnam exchange fire with communist guerrilla forces.

1969 — Fighting breaks out between Soviet and Chinese forces along border of those two nations.

1973 — US and Soviet envoys begin fourth round of SALT talks in Vienna, Austria, on limiting arms.

1987 — Bomb explodes on railway bridge in southern India, sending passenger train crashing into river bed, killing at least 22 people.

1988 — Israeli authorities impose travel ban on Palestinians in occupied territories.

Papandreou survives censure motion

Scandals beset Greek populist hero

ATHENS, (Reuters): Andreas Papandreou, a former populist hero who became Greece's first socialist prime minister, has seen his popularity plummet over financial scandals battering his government and controversy over his love-life.

Papandreou, 70, survived a censure motion in Parliament yesterday. The main opposition New Democracy Party wanted the socialist thrown out because of bank, arms and personal scandals over the past five months.

But a barrage of criticism hurled at the prime minister by friend and foe alike looks certain to continue unabated during campaigning for general elections due on June 18.

Charismatic, unpredictable and a brilliant orator, Papandreou has dominated Greek politics for almost a decade. When his Panhellenic Socialist Movement

(PASOK) swept to power in 1981, he promised an era of spiritual and cultural renewal.

His vision of a new Greece, fierce anti-American rhetoric and promises to shut US military bases won him a second term in 1985 but his fortunes began to ebb in August last year.

He has been under constant attack over a public extramarital affair, his handling of a \$200-million bank scandal and questions about his health after open-heart surgery in September.

Papandreou was born into a prominent family. His father, George, was prime minister from 1963-64 and his son, also named George, serves as education minister.

Like many Greeks, Papandreou was banished for his left-wing activities in the 1930s by the dictatorship of General Ioan-

nis Metaxas. He emigrated to the United States in 1940, became a US citizen, served as Navy officer during World War Two and was eventually named dean of economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

He returned to Greece in 1959, accompanied by his American wife Margaret and four children, and soon took up politics. He was elected to Parliament as a left-wing deputy in 1963 — the same year his father became prime minister.

But the country soon plunged into political turmoil and right-wing colonels seized power in April 1967. Papandreou was jailed for eight months.

International pressure secured his freedom but he was again banned from his native land by a military dictatorship. He campaigned against the colonels throughout Europe and North America.

Papandreou sowed the seeds of PASOK while in exile and shortly after the colonels fell in July 1974 he returned and began drawing various leftist factions to his new party banner.

He became prime minister in October 1981 and insisted that PASOK was different from previous political parties.

The party, with its roots in the countryside, was dedicated to improving the lot of working men and women. The minimum wage was raised, state medical treatment expanded and subsidies extracted from the European Economic Community for Greek farmers.

His maverick foreign policy exasperated Western allies but Papandreou boasted that he was ahead of his time. He called for closer ties with the East Bloc and backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's quest for a homeland.



Papandreou: criticised

Hard times ahead for Kohl

By Patrick Moser

BONN, (UPI): Recent electoral setbacks have considerably weakened Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative West German government, but officials of his party are banking on deriving political profit from discontent that leftist regional governments could generate.

Kohl's Christian Democratic Union took heavy blows in municipal elections Sunday in the state of Hesse and in January elections in West Berlin, which demonstrated a polarisation of the electorate toward left- and right-wing extremes. Kohl's coalition lost control of the governments in Frankfurt, the chief city in Hesse, and West Berlin to leftist parties.

Ultra right-wing parties campaigned against immigrants in Frankfurt and in West Berlin, both of which have strong foreign communities. The extreme right-wing parties attracted many disgruntled CDU voters by blaming unpopular cuts in health spending, housing shortages and high unemployment on what they consider an excessively high number of foreigners in West Germany.

On the other hand, rapidly decreasing support for the presence of NATO troops in West Germany brought strong gains to the extreme left Greens and

the more mainstream leftist Social Democratic Party.

The unfavourable political trends for Kohl, who has been in power since 1982, came to a head last weekend when the SPD and the West Berlin branch of the Greens, the Alternative List, agreed to form a coalition government, replacing a CDU coalition. That was followed by the victory of the two left-wing parties in Frankfurt, which should lead to a similar power-sharing arrangement there.

CDU officials, however, hope to reap eventual profit from the election of "red-green" governments in the two cities, especially with the approach of national elections late next year.

Recent opinion polls indicated a majority of West Berliners did not want to be ruled by a leftist coalition — a feeling largely attributed to general distrust of the Greens. Kohl has described them as a "radical" group influenced by "leftist, socialist, anarchist" thinking.

Such coalitions are likely to find little support from the conservative police and business community in both cities.

The Western occupying forces in West Berlin — 10,000 American, British and French troops — have little sympathy for the Greens branch, which only reluctantly agreed to recognise the status of

allied troops in the divided city.

CDU officials are rubbing their hands in anticipation of the hurdles the new coalition will face in taking over the West Berlin and Frankfurt governments from the conservatives. Both cities are faced with increasing unemployment, severe housing shortages and widespread discontent with the high percentage of resident foreigners, mainly Turks.

But public discontent with Kohl's policies contributed to the recent success of ultra right-wing parties in attracting voters from the CDU.

A Feb 27 poll by the respected Emnid Research Institute gave the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, only 38 per cent of the vote, the lowest in three decades. The poll shows a "red-green" coalition at a national level would take 49 per cent of the vote, two per cent more than Kohl's coalition with the centrist Free Democratic Party.

Walter Momper, the Social Democrat who is to become West Berlin's new mayor tomorrow, believes that "if we can make the coalition work, then that would signal Kohl faces a serious challenge in 1990."

But, he added, "if we can't make it succeed, then he probably will be OK."

An American chose to stay

'I was not brainwashed in China'

By John Pomfret

JINAN, China, (AP): The Chinese captured James George Veneris in Korea on a starry night in 1950, and the American chose not to go home after the war. Even though he suffered in the Cultural Revolution, Veneris is glad he stayed.

Red Guards accused him of counter-revolution in the 1960s and he was forced to work as a rag picker, but life got better when the then President Richard Nixon visited China in 1972 and decades of hatred between the United States and China began to end.

"You see, I just did what Nixon did, that's all," he said. "Only I did it 22 years earlier. The folks in America don't recognise this, but one day they'll come around."

The "old American soldier," as the Chinese call him, visited the United States in 1976. He found himself a misfit and returned to China, where he will celebrate his 67th birthday on March 30.

"I'm living the life of Riley here," he said. "I'm still studying Chinese characters, three a day. I've got life knocked up. I want to live to 120."

Twenty-two US prisoners of war and one Briton chose to live in China after the Korean war ended in 1953. Only Veneris and Howard Adams, another US citizen, remain; one of the others died of a heart ailment in 1954 and the rest have left China.

Veneris, the son of a coal miner, was raised in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. He is a gentle person with a shock of gray hair, a firm handshake and a slight heart condition that once again has put him under a doctor's care.

He is a man in a time warp whose conversation is sprinkled with expressions from Maoist dogma and an America of half a century ago.

"Oh, I got some bananas. I got some bananas," Veneris sang during a recent interview from his hospital bed. Then he dug into a beside cupboard and pulled out several pieces of the fruit. "Just wish I had the rest of the makings for a good banana split," he said.

"When he and the others chose to live in China, they were branded defectors in the West and given dishonourable discharges. China hailed them as 'peace fighters' and the fledgling communist government used them as propaganda."

Veneris fought in the Pacific during World War II and joined up again to stop communism in Korea.

"Heck, I believed Red China was going to invade California," he said, but three years in a POW camp in North Korea ended the hatred.

"No, they didn't brainwash me. That's a bunch of baloney," he said, poking with a finger to press his point. "I saw they were good people. They didn't hate us, they only hated the people in Washington."

On Nov 28, 1950, Veneris had been in Korea just 27 days and was at the end of a retreating convoy.

"I remember the day real well," he said. "It was in the evening. We were retreating. Suddenly everything stopped. Then came the Chinese bugles. All I could see was a quarter moon and the twinkling stars. Next day, we were surrounded."

The 23 prisoners who went to China were given the choice of studying, working in a factory or the countryside, or doing nothing on a small monthly stipend.

"I took the factory and never regretted it," Veneris said.

He was sent to Jinan in eastern China, where he worked at a paper mill as a lathe operator, blacksmith and machine repairman.

In 1956, he met a Chinese woman who would become the first of three wives. She died a few years later of tuberculosis.

During the early 1960s, he studied at the People's University in Beijing and wrote a thesis on "How good the people are."

"And that's in capital letters," he said. "It's just about good people."

Mao Tse-tung's radical Cultural Revolution began and, as a foreigner, Veneris was suspected of counterrevolution.

He returned to Jinan and was forced to do hard labour.

"I pulled around a cart and picked rags," he said. "I did a lot of sweating."

His propaganda duties included a widely publicised speech against the Vietnam war. A second marriage ended because Veneris was a foreigner and old friends stayed away.

After the improvement in US-Chinese relations, Veneris returned to the United States in 1976 for the bicentennial.

"I spent a year there and must have slept in 300 homes," he said. "I spoke 700 times on China. I did my internationalist duty."

The United States had become a strange place to the exile.

"All those new gadgets: refrigerators that made ice, phones with buttons on them, video things," he said. "I figured I might as well come back to China. I knew it better."

He went to the United States again to 1984 to see his sisters in California. The only things he says he misses now are "strong, non-filter cigarettes and good ice cream."

After retiring from his factory job, Veneris began teaching English at the university. He spends his free time with his third wife, a professor of botany, and two children from his second marriage.

His daughter, 18, sells tickets on the No. 35 bus in Jinan but his 16-year-old son "doesn't do much of anything except play," he said.

Tibet riots help conservatives

BEIJING, (Reuters): Rioting in

which at least 16 people were killed and led to martial law in Lhasa has strengthened China's conservatives and dealt a setback to advocates of more democracy.

They told Reuters on Monday that hardliners were likely to use last week's violence in Tibet to press for tighter controls on a public that is already testing the authority of the ruling Communist Party.

"This probably plays into the hands of the law and order advocates," said a Western diplomat.

"It is more ammunition for the conservatives," said another. "They can say: 'This is what happens when you relax.'"

Martial law was declared on the Himalayan region's capital last Tuesday night after three days of bloody pro-independence riots that were seen as the biggest challenge to Beijing's authority in the region since an abortive uprising in 1959.

It was the first time Chinese authorities had resorted to martial law.

Diplomats said the Chinese leadership was probably not

seriously divided over the tough response in Tibet — all believe the remote region is part of China and has no hope of gaining independence.

"There are no softies on Tibet. Some may be slightly more conciliatory to the region but I don't think there was much opposition," said a Western diplomat.

But they said they were concerned that the events in Lhasa, reported prominently in the national media, were contributing to a swing away from reforms and further into a period of economic and political retrenchment.

Premier Li Peng and Vice-

Premier Yao Yilin, both widely seen as more cautious on the pace and scope of reform, have played increasingly important roles in formulating economic policy.

China last year abandoned price reforms — the key element of its ambitious programme of economic restructuring begun in 1978 — in the face of bank runs, panic buying and the worst inflation since the communist seized power in 1949.

Beijing has since signalled it would not be able to move ahead with other assets, and it has been unable to tackle ideology sensitive issues such as bankruptcy.

Canadian abortion debate rages as government avoids fray

By Russell Blinch

OTTAWA, (Reuters): Canadian women have won the right to abort on demand but the battle over the issue rages on.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled 13 months ago that legal restrictions on abortion were unconstitutional and interfered with "a woman's physical and bodily integrity."

Since then private abortion groups, fearing abortions are on the rise, have been staging demonstrations at the new clinics

while at the same time pressing the Canadian government for a new law to control pregnancy terminations.

"We want a law and a good law," said Karen Murawsky, executive director of Campaign Life/Coalition. "We want a law that protects all Canadians from (the time of) conception."

The clinics have become battle grounds as abortion opponents stage noisy protests that are often countered by equally vocal demonstrations by pro-abortionists.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, more than 100 hymn-singing anti-abortion demonstrators were arrested recently after defying a court order against blocking access to the Everywoman's Health Clinic.

The pro-abortionists, or pro-choice advocates, don't want new legislation that would transform a medical procedure into a criminal act.

"Our position is abortion should remain decriminalised as a private health matter between a patient and her doctor," said

Robin Rowe, national co-ordinator for the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League.

Unlike the Bush administration in the United States, which has made it clear it wants restrictions on abortions, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's conservative government appears in no rush to wade into the controversy.

Abortion advocates were encouraged by Mulroney's recent decision to appoint Doug Lewis as the country's new justice minister. He is on record as

supporting a woman's right to abortion.

Legislation

Lewis, who would be responsible for drafting any new legislation, does not seem eager to tackle the issue.

He told a Canadian newspaper he could not say abortion legislation would be a priority in the government's second term in office now under way. He added that he would have to canvass opinions of the entire cabinet before making any moves.

The battle over abortion in

Canada has centred around Dr Henry Morgentaler and his effort to operate private abortion clinics.

After spending years challenging the law in Canada's court system, Morgentaler emerged victorious in January 1988 when the Supreme Court ruled the country's abortion law was a violation of women's rights.

Under the old law abortions were allowed only in certain hospitals, not clinics, and only after a committee ruled a woman's life or health was endangered.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مكتبة جامعة القاهرة"

BUSINESS & FINANCE

BIB fund managers hope to raise \$25m

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A HIGH-POWERED group of international investment specialists yesterday held a conference for Kuwaiti investors, in a bid to generate interest in a Bahrain International Bank-sponsored fund for investment in the discounted debt of troubled US companies.

The fund sponsors and managers hope to raise \$25 million, two thirds of which is expected to come from Kuwait, by the end of May.

The bank has already launched two other funds, of DM100 million and \$25 million, both of

which were substantially supported by Kuwaiti investors.

Thomas O'Donnell, the managing director of Oppenheimer and Co., pointed out that the buying of troubled US companies' bonds is done only when there are 100 per cent assets to cover them. This, combined with careful selection, is the key to successful investment in the discounted obligations of distressed companies in the US, a comparatively new investment instrument in the Gulf.

Complementing calls for investment in the US, a German investment expert urged the Kuwaitis to place money in mid-sized and smaller European com-

panies if they don't want to lose ground to Japanese and American investors already taking up positions on the European market.

Helmuth Kirchner of the Matuschka Group of Munich said Europe is the most underdeveloped part of the world compared to its growth potential.

The removal of trade barriers in 1992 will unleash numerous investment opportunities now artificially held back, said Kirchner, adding that smaller and mid-sized companies which could then prosper are in need of funds to go international — their best bet to survive the anticipated intense competition.

He called on the Kuwait Investment Office to increase their focus on West Germany. Kuwait has substantial investment in the country, having acquired a 15 per cent stake in Daimler-Benz in 1974, and an interest in the chemical group Metallgesellschaft and Hoechst during the early 1980's. But Kirchner argued that these are already large international groups whose growth potential is below that of smaller firms.

Advice

He suggested that Kuwaiti investors seek advice from an independent money manager or investment company which is internationally active

and capable of implementing different investment schemes. Above all, he said they should diversify their investments.

The panelists, coming from reputable institutions such as Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Ltd., the Matuschka Group, Point Venture Partners and others, explained the potential risks and benefits of investing in instruments such as leveraged buyouts and venture capital.

Donald Seifinger, BIB's general manager, said the conference, which attracted about 70 participants, provided exposure to a number of investment areas highly relevant to major investors in the region.

US current account trade gap narrowed

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP) — The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade narrowed to \$135.3 billion last year for the best showing since 1985, despite a steep deterioration in the balance on investment earnings, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the deficit in the current account, also known as the balance of payments, shrank 12.1 per cent from the record imbalance of \$153.96 billion set in 1987.

The current account is the most important trade statistic because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also transactions in investments and other services.

The big improvement last year came entirely from merchandise trade, where the deficit shrank by 21.1 per cent to \$126.5 billion. This reflected a 28 per cent surge in US export sales, which was enough to offset a 9 per cent rise in merchandise imports.

However, in an ominous sign for the future, the US surplus in the investment category shrank by 76 per cent last year to a slight \$4.78 billion, down from 19.76 billion in 1987.

Decline

This decline reflected the fact that foreign holdings in the United States have increased to such an extent that foreign investment earnings now rival and, economists say, will soon surpass American investment earnings overseas.

As recently as 1981, the United States ran surpluses in its current account because the nation's cushion in overseas investment earnings was enough to offset perennial deficits the country ran in merchandise trade.

However, in this decade, Americans have handed over billions of dollars to foreigners in exchange for imported goods. This development has transformed the United States from the world's largest creditor nation, a position now held by Japan, to the world's largest debtor country.

Simply put, that means that foreigners now own more in US investments than Americans hold in overseas investments.

With today's report, US net debt probably climbed above \$500 billion at the end of 1988, up from 368.2 billion at the end of 1987. The exact accounting of the US net debtor position will not be released by the Commerce Department for several more months.

Arab Bank Federation opens banking conference

MADRID, March 14, (KUNA) — The Arab Bank Federation opened an international banking conference here today, with the theme of "Arab Banking Challenges After 1992 in Europe."

The Director General of the Arab-Spanish Bank, Salem Al Zanati, told KUNA that the conference will be attended by bankers from all Arab countries and Europe to study the challenges facing Europe-based Arab banks when the European single market comes into effect in 1992.

Zanati said the European market will ask banks of joint European-Arab capitals to increase their efforts if they desire to maintain their activities in Europe.

The European Economic Community will create obstacles to end the activities of these joint Arab banks, but Arab countries must exert all efforts to preserve these banks, he added.

It has a combined population of 322 million and an overall gross national product of about \$4.8 trillion, as well as a 40 per cent stake in global trade.

The Arab countries and the Gulf region will inevitably feel the impact of a unified European market, especially since the community is now the Arab world's largest trade partner and an international financial and shipping centre.

Neutral budget: chancellor

Lawson vows to curb soaring UK inflation

LONDON, March 14, (Agencies) — Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, vowing to curb Britain's rising inflation, unveiled a neutral budget with no major tax changes today.

Lawson, his political reputation frayed by an unforeseen consumer boom which wrecked his budget forecasts last year, surprised Parliament by the caution of his measures for 1989.

He warned Britain was expected to run a balance of payments deficit of £14.5 billion (\$25 billion) again this year despite a sharp drop in economic growth.

Stressing an over-riding need to combat inflation, the chancellor reaffirmed he would stay loyal to high interest rates — bank base rates currently stand at 13 per cent — as his chosen instrument to cool the economy.

Lawson said, "I repeat what I have stated clearly on a number of occasions: interest rates will stay as high as is needed for as long as is needed." "There will be no letting up in our determination to get on top of inflation."

He told members of Parliament that inflation would peak at eight per cent before falling to 5.5 per cent by the end of 1989 and to 4.5 per cent in the spring of 1990.

His package of low-key proposals contrasted with the sweeping tax cuts he announced in 1988 when the top rate of tax fell from 60 to 40 per cent and the standard rate from 27 to 25 per cent.

There was no cut in income

taxes this time and a modest increase in tax thresholds was in line with the annual rate of inflation in 1988 of 6.8 per cent.

Separation Lawson's 67-minute speech was delayed by 16 minutes by a procedural row that ended with the suspension of James Sillars of the Scottish Nationalist Party. Sillars was suspended for five days on a 376-16 ballot for attempting to press his party's case for the separation of Scotland from the rest of Britain.

According to tradition, Lawson carried his speech to the House of Commons in a battered red dispatch box first used by William Gladstone in 1860, during his second term as chancellor before serving two stints as prime minister.

In keeping with the environmental image Thatcher's government has tried to project recently, Lawson said a gallon of unleaded gasoline will now cost 10 pence (17 cents) less than leaded fuel, which is more damaging to the environment. "Britain's tax differential in favour of unleaded petrol would now be greater than any other country in the European Economic Community with the solitary exception of Denmark," he said.

Lawson announced proposals to encourage savings, further relief for charities and a one-third increase in taxes on the private use of company cars.

Lawson said Britain's £14.5 billion trade deficit in 1988, the worst on record, would correct

itself.

He also said taxes on alcohol and tobacco would remain unchanged, breaking with his trend of upping the rates to match inflation.

"Cheers to the chancellor," a delighted Brewers Association spokesman said.

Earlier, as Lawson and his wife Therese took a traditional pre-budget stroll through St James Park, a protester harassed them, arguing for a heavier tax on tobacco.

Strength

Lawson said he crafted the budget for the year beginning in April against a backdrop of an "unprecedented strength of the British economy, coupled with the continuing and overriding need to combat inflation at a time when throughout the world it is unmistakably edging up again."

"Taking the seven major industrial nations as a whole inflation is now at its highest level for 3-1/2 years," Lawson said.

Britain has the third highest inflation rate in the 12-nation European Economic Community, according to figures released hours before Lawson's speech. "Interest rates will stay as high as is needed for as long as is needed, for there will be no letting up in our determination to get on top of inflation," Lawson said. It was the first British budget in which interest rates were not cut since 1980.

Interest rates stand at 13.5 per cent, compared with 7.5 per cent a year ago.

US retail sales down

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Reuters) — US retail sales unexpectedly fell 0.4 per cent in February, the largest decline since last April, the Commerce Department reported today.

The February decrease in retail sales to a seasonally adjusted \$138.23 billion was led by a sharp drop in car sales. In January, retail sales rose a modest 0.7 per cent.

Wall Street economists had expected sales to rise 0.5 per cent in February.

Excluding car sales, which can fluctuate widely from month to month, retail sales slipped 0.1 per cent last month after rising 1.4 per cent in January.

Retail sales are an important

measure of consumer spending, which has remained strong throughout most of last year, raising fears the economy was growing too rapidly and could spark runaway inflation.

Those concerns were heightened last week when the Labour Department reported that the civilian unemployment rate fell to 5.1 per cent in February, the lowest level in nearly 15 years, as the economy created 289,000 new jobs.

But some analysts said a drop of 8,000 in the number of factory jobs hinted that an economic slowdown was on the way and gave policymakers reason to pause before deciding whether to lift interest rates another notch in their effort to restrain inflation.

UNBELIEVABLE PRICES!

IN FIRST SALE OF MARCH



CHILDREN WEAR

Boy's & Girl's Pyjama French

~~KD 9.000~~
~~KD 9.750~~
~~KD 9.250~~ **3.000**
~~KD 9.500~~
~~KD 11.500~~

Baby's Set Spanish

~~KD 2.000~~
~~KD 2.250~~ **0.750**
~~KD 2.500~~
~~KD 4.000~~

Boy's & Girl's Blouses Germany

~~KD 5.250~~
~~KD 4.500~~
~~KD 4.250~~ **1.000**
~~KD 4.000~~
~~KD 3.000~~

Boy's & Girl's Pants Spanish & Italy

~~KD 4.000~~
~~KD 4.750~~
~~KD 5.750~~
~~KD 7.250~~ **1.250**
~~KD 6.250~~
~~KD 5.500~~
~~KD 7.500~~

Baby's Blouses Spanish

~~KD 2.000~~
~~KD 2.250~~
~~KD 2.650~~ **0.500**
~~KD 3.000~~

Baby Dress Spanish

~~KD 8.750~~
~~KD 9.750~~ **4.000**
~~KD 9.500~~

Boy's & Girl's Blouses French

~~KD 8.500~~
~~KD 7.000~~
~~KD 6.000~~ **2.000**
~~KD 9.000~~
~~KD 6.750~~

Girl's Dresses Spanish

~~KD 12.500~~
~~KD 12.000~~
~~KD 11.500~~ **4.000**
~~KD 13.750~~
~~KD 12.750~~

Girl's Dresses Spanish

~~KD 13.000~~
~~KD 17.250~~
~~KD 14.250~~ **6.000**
~~KD 18.000~~

Girl's Dresses Spanish

~~KD 12.500~~
~~KD 9.000~~
~~KD 9.250~~
~~KD 12.250~~ **5.000**
~~KD 11.500~~
~~KD 12.000~~
~~KD 10.750~~
~~KD 10.500~~



MEN'S WEAR

Dishdasha

~~KD 5.500~~ **2.000**

Winter Trouser

~~KD 5.000~~ **2.500**

Pwlover Spanish

~~KD 10.000~~ **5.000**

Socks

~~KD 0.450~~ **0.250**

Ties Garman

~~KD 4.750~~ **1.900**

Pyjama English

~~KD 16.500~~ **8.250**

Pyjama With Robe English

~~KD 66.250~~ **33.150**

Swimming Pant

~~KD 3.250~~ **1.650**

Trouser Parmuda

~~KD 4.250~~ **1.400**

Trouser Parmuda

~~KD 5.000~~ **1.500**

Belt Spanish

~~KD 4.500~~ **1.800**



LADIE'S WEAR

Half Slips & Under Slips

~~KD 3.000~~ **0.500**

Dresses & Suits

~~KD 10.250~~ **4.000**

Dresses, Suits, Skirts

~~KD 16.000~~ **2.000**

Night Dress, Blouses

~~KD 5.250~~ **1.000**

Trousers

~~KD 9.750~~ **1.500**

Belts

~~KD 1.500~~ **0.850**

Lady Shoes Italian

~~KD 15.250~~ **4.250**

Lady Sandals Spanish

~~KD 7.750~~ **2.000**

Japan's trade surplus widens

TOKYO, March 14, (AP) — Japan's trade surplus widened in February for the sixth consecutive month from year-earlier levels, boosted by expanding exports, the Finance Ministry said today.

The surplus reached \$7.219 billion, up from \$5.340 billion in the same month last year and well above January's level of \$3.25 billion, according to ministry figures.

Exports in February rose 10.4 per cent from a year earlier to

\$22.343 billion, while imports edged up by 0.9 per cent to \$15.124 billion. The figures are compiled as goods passing through customs in February at an exchange rate of around 128.50 yen.

Surplus

Japan's overall trade surplus rose as a result of continued strength in exports, ministry officials said, adding they expected the upward trend to continue at levels 5-6 per cent above those of one year ago.

Imports, which rose 12.7 per cent in January over year-earlier levels, fared poorly in February due to the larger number of holidays compared to the same month last year, they said. Business activity quieted for the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito on Feb. 24, observed as a public holiday.

Japan's surplus with the United States widened to \$4.177 billion in February from \$3.392 billion one year ago, the Finance Ministry said.

Iran softens stance on fate of joint venture

TOKYO, March 14, (Reuters) — Iran has hinted it might agree to abandon an Iranian-Japanese project to build a giant petrochemical complex, a Mitsui company spokesman said.

Mitsui officials said they hoped they had broken the impasse over the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company (IJPC) project which ground to a halt during the Gulf war.

"It's a step forward for friendly separation of our relationship in the project," a Mitsui spokesman said of the latest Iranian position. "The Iranian stand has apparently softened."

Japanese firms led by Mitsui, and Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC), invested 600 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture since 1971.

Deal

The plant, which would have been one of the world's biggest petrochemical complexes, was 85 per cent complete when work halted after the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980.

Mitsui first indicated it wanted out of the deal 20 months ago when shipping attacks in the Gulf were a daily occurrence. Mitsui formally asked Iran to abandon the project last December but Iran said it needed more time to decide.

Gold gains Dollar weakens, sterling firms

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters) — The London dollar stock market closed today at its highest level since the crash of 87 after Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson announced what financial analysts described as a cautious British budget.

The pound sterling also ended the day firm in Europe. Analysts described the budget package as prudent and tight without an expected cut in personal income tax.

London's FTSE index of 100 key shares hit 2,132.3 points during Lawson's budget speech to parliament before falling back to end 22.4 points higher at 2,125.4.

Lawson also said he expected the economy to grow 2.5 per cent in 1989-90, down from 4.5 per cent in the past two years.

Steady

"We have experienced the longest period of strong and steady growth since the war. Output in the United Kingdom has grown faster than in all the other main European nations during the 1980s," he said.

Productivity growth in Britain has been second only to Japan's among major nations in the 1980s, he said.

"In Britain today we have more people in work than ever before in our history. They are better motivated than ever before and their living standards have improved beyond recognition."

On the debt, Lawson said his new budget "means that in the

space of three years we shall have repayed roughly a sixth of the public debt that has accumulated over two centuries."

The pound got a boost from Lawson's renewed pledge to keep interest rates high to fight inflation, dealers said. It finished in London at \$1.7285 compared with 1.7125 last night.

The dollar, meanwhile, weakened to 1.8590 marks and 129.70 yen from Monday's close of 1.8668 and 129.75 after lower US retail sales dampened lingering market hopes of higher US interest rates.

The Commerce Department said in Washington that February retail sales fell by 0.4 per cent after January's 0.7 per cent rise. Economists had expected a rise of 0.4 per cent.

"People were long (holding dollars) going into the figures and that meant there were a lot of dollars around when the data deflated hopes of higher US interest rates," said one dealer.

Lower

Gold prices moved ahead because of the lower dollar and bullion ended in London \$2.80 an ounce higher at \$395.75.

The most widely traded crude, North Sea Brent blend, was quoted in London around a seven-week high of \$17.30 a barrel for May loading, against 16.80 yesterday morning. The benchmark US treasury 30-year bond was quoted in London around 98-16/32 per cent, yielding 9.15 per cent.

The Grand Stores

KUWAIT-FERRETEL-ARMADI

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEY LIFE	334.0
ADT LTD	147.0
ALD LYONS	502.0
AMSTRAD	160.0
ARGYLL GP	183.0
ASDA GP	152.0
BAA	335.0
BTR	370.0
BAT INDS	586.0
BARCLAYS	450.0
BASS	965.0
BEAZER	25.00
BEECHAMS	592.0
BERTSFORD	158.0
BICC PLC	94.0
BLICE ARW	50.0
BLUE CIRC	545.0
BOC GP	514.0
BOOTS CO	277.0
BPB INDS	261.0
BR COMM	223.0
BR ATWAY	213.0
BR AEROSP	568.0
BR GAS RG	176.4
BR LAND	368.0
B.P.	280.0
B.P.PP	175.0
BR STEEL	87.0
BR TELCOM	294.0
BURMAN DL	564.0
BURTON	212.0
CABLEWIR	480.0
CABOYRS	358.0
CALOR GRP	388.0
CALTEX CO	880.0
CRLT N T	863.0
COCKSONS	330.0
COURTAULD	305.0
DALGETY	362.0
DIXONS	170.0
ENG CHINA	538.0
ENTER OIL	575.0
FI BARCK	175.0
FERRANTI	110.5
FIONS	285.0
GATEWAY	170.0
GEN ACCID	980.0
GEN ELEC	250.0
GLAXO	327.0
GRANDAD	385.0
GLOBE	173.4
GLYNED	333.0
GUARD RYL	217.0
GKN	388.0
GUINNESS	448.0
HMMERSA	810.0
HANSON	186.5
HARRISON C	723.0
HILLER SID	713.0
HILLSDOWN	278.0
ICI	188.0

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	862.0	861.0
600 GROUP	126.0	127.0
A.AMER TS	433.0	433.0
A.B.ELECT	443.0	444.0
A.S.W.HLD	253.0	254.0
AAB KENT	88.0	88.0
AAR HLD	405.0	407.0
AARNSON	120.0	119.0
ADDISON	34.0	34.0
ADVEST	184.0	185.0
ALEX URWK	187.0	188.0
ALEXON	384.0	385.0
ALLD COLL	138.0	139.0
ALLD TR B	293.0	292.0
ALLD LON	144.0	144.0
ALLD PART	77.0	77.0
ALLIANCE	983.0	984.0
AMBER DAY	58.4	58.4
AMEC	446.0	446.0
AMER TST	136.0	136.4
AMERSHAM	519.0	521.0
AMT HLTHC	924.0	924.0
ANGLIA TV	290.0	291.0
ANSBACHER	148.0	148.0
APPLYARD	454.0	452.0
APV PLC	156.0	156.0
ASHLEY LA	110.0	111.0
AUS REE A	256.0	255.0
AUST REED	388.0	390.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	288.0
AVDEL PLC	99.4	99.0
AVESCO	136.0	137.0
AVIS EUR	384.0	384.0
AVON RUBB	640.0	640.0
B.WEIMILL	240.0	240.0
BAILL JAP	518.0	521.0
BAILL SHI	95.0	96.0
BAIRD (W)	245.0	246.0
BAIRD IRE	291.0	292.0
BANKER IT	89.0	90.0
BARDON GP	162.0	163.0
BART DEV	205.0	204.0
BAYNES C	33.4	33.0
BBR GROUP	189.0	190.0
BEAR BRAND	11.2	11.0
BEATTIE J	165.0	165.0
BEJAM GP	196.0	196.0
BELHAVEN	32.0	33.0
BELLMAY	248.0	249.0
BENROSE	240.0	240.0
BENLOX HD	66.0	66.0
BERKELEY	261.0	261.0
BHR GROUP	122.0	122.0
BR OF SCO	103.0	104.0
BLK LE 2	15.0	14.6
BLM GROUP	449.0	448.0
BUNNETT F	116.0	116.0
BOASE MAS	303.0	301.0
BODINGTON	198.0	198.0
BODY SHOP	554.0	556.0
BOOTH ENR	458.0	458.0

LONDON (Gamma Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
BORTHWICK	41.0	42.0
BR ARROW	121.0	121.0
BR ASSETS	82.4	82.4
BR DREGDI	169.0	169.0
BR VITA	264.0	264.0
BRENT CHE	152.0	152.0
BRENT MGR	353.0	353.0
BRIDON	199.0	200.0
BRITAIN SE	215.0	215.0
BRITANNIC	383.0	385.0
BRIXTON E	405.0	404.0
BRN & JAC	43.0	43.0
BROWN SHI	350.0	350.0
BRYANT GP	130.0	131.0
BSS INTL	83.4	83.4
BUDGENS	120.0	120.0
BULLOUGH	527.0	526.0
BULLION NP	180.0	180.0
CALRO GRP	446.0	445.0
CALENDONIA	382.0	382.0
CAMB ELEC	255.0	256.0
CAMFORD E	242.0	243.0
CANNING W	258.0	259.0
CANNON ST	290.0	291.0
CAP RADIO	699.0	699.0
CARADON	389.0	389.0
CARLOS EN	157.0	157.0
CATTLE HD	70.0	70.0
CAULDON	13.0	13.4
CEINTL TV	775.0	778.0
CHAM PHRR	219.0	220.0
CHARTEIRA	22.6	22.6
CHAS CHUR	109.0	107.0
CHLORIDE	58.0	59.0
CHRISTIES	816.0	820.0
CII GROUP	52.0	52.0
CINTEL SEC	69.4	69.4
CNTRY OIL	186.0	186.0
COALITE	47.0	47.0
COATES BR	326.0	325.0
COLLOROLL	162.0	162.0
CONNELLS	271.0	270.0
COOPER F	178.0	178.0
COSTAIN	344.0	344.0
COURTS FR	186.0	185.0
COUTE (T)	132.0	132.0
CRH	162.0	163.0
CRODA INT	205.0	206.0
CSTALAT	163.0	163.0
CTRY PROP	309.0	309.0
DARES EST	33.2	33.2
DAVIS GDO	181.0	181.0
DAVY CORP	260.0	261.0
DAMSON GP	196.0	196.0
DELTA GRP	346.0	348.0
DEVENISH	348.0	348.0
DEWHIRST	45.4	46.0
DIPLOMA	265.0	265.0
DOBSON PK	102.4	102.0
DOMINGEN	75.0	75.0
DOUGHTY GP	270.0	271.0
DRAYTON C	537.0	538.0
DRE	480.0	480.0
DUNDESTR	72.0	73.0
DUNDELD	320.0	323.0
DUNWILL	253.0	253.0
EAGLE TST	16.6	17.0
EDIN I.T	188.4	188.4
EDMOND HD	43.4	43.4
ELECTRA	271.0	271.0
ELECTROM	216.0	216.0
ENAP	253.0	253.0
EMPIRE ST	213.0	213.0
ERA GROUP	59.0	60.0
EURO. HOME	263.0	260.0
EUROTRAIL	473.0	473.0
EUROTHL UT	819.0	820.0
EUROTHL MT	73.0	72.4
EVODE GRP	196.0	197.0
EX. CO. LOU	132.0	132.0
EXPANET	190.0	191.0
F&C ENTER	32.0	32.0
F&C EUROPT	253.0	253.0
F&C PACIFIC	160.0	161.0
F&C SKILLR	80.0	80.0
FARNELL E	167.0	168.0
FED. HOUSN	269.0	269.0
FENNER JH	187.0	187.0
FERGUSON	276.0	276.0
FINLAN GP	92.0	91.0
FINLAY J	115.0	114.0
FITCH LOV	280.0	280.0
FKB GROUP	324.0	325.0
FRMLO HD	289.0	288.0
FROGROVE	508.0	507.0
GALLIFORD	95.0	95.0
GARDINER	52.0	51.0
GEEST	267.0	266.0
GET INTL	128.0	129.0
GERDMAT	285.0	285.0
GESTETNER	267.0	267.0
GOODE DUR	125.0	126.0
GPG	41.0	40.0
GRANPH HD	335.0	336.0
GREEN KNG	616.0	615.0
GREENWLL	315.0	316.0
GREYCAT	483.0	483.0
GRUP TV A	70.0	70.0
GT PRTLD	413.0	413.0
GUINNESS	128.0	128.0
GUS ORD	605.0	600.0
GUTT ORIE	362.0	363.0
GVT STRA	260.4	262.0
H&M DIS	172.0	173.0
H&M DIS	222.0	221.0
H&M DIS	253.0	253.0
H&M DIS	873.0	873.0
H&M DIS	63.0	63.4
H&M DIS	256.0	256.0
H&M DIS	468.0	467.0
HELENE PL	34.0	34.0
HELICAL B	305.0	305.0
HEPORTH	289.0	289.0
HETRAIR	295.0	295.0
HEYWOOD W	300.0	300.0

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCH COM	34.0	33.7
ATLANTIC R	90.1	89.5
AAR CORP	28.0	27.7
ABBOTT LAB	52.3	52.2
ACME CLVD	10.6	10.6
ADV MICRO	8.6	8.6
AEROP LAB	5.1	5.2
AETNA LIFE	49.7	49.7
AIMANSON	16.7	16.7
AIR PR-CHN	44.2	44.2
ALASKA ATR	25.1	25.3
ALBERTSONS	39.7	40.0
ALBMA 8-16	0	80.2
ALCAN ALUM	32.2	32.1
ALCO STAMP	26.2	26.0
AM CAP SEC	21.2	21.4
AM CYANAMID	50.2	49.7
AM FAMILY	15.5	15.6
AM HOM PRO	86.0	85.6
AM STANARD	0	77.7
AM STORES	58.0	57.6
AM TEL-TEL	31.6	31.4
AMOCO CORP	81.0	80.6
AMP INC	44.0	44.2
AMPCO PITT	14.5	14.6
AMR CORP	60.2	60.2
AMR GEN CO	34.3	34.3
AMERADIA	36.6	36.6
ANTHEM ELE	9.5	9.5
APACHE CP	8.6	8.5
APCAL 8-12	0	82.6
ARMSTRONG	36.6	36.6
ASHLEND OIL	39.3	39.2
ASIA PACIFIC	8.6	8.7
ATLS CORP	29.5	29.6
AVERT INT	22.7	22.7
AVNET INC	22.2	22.4
AVON PRODS	23.1	23.0
BCE INC	30.7	30.7
BELLSOUTH	42.0	42.1
BELO CP A	26.0	26.0
BETH STEEL	25.2	25.2
BEVERLY	8.7	9.0
BK BOSTON	24.7	24.6
BK BOSTN-A	0	39.5
BK N-YORK	43.5	43.4
BK N-Y	38.6	38.4
ILL PAR CO	17.1	17.1
ILLIN 4-08	18.6	18.4
INDIA GROUP	9.4	9.3
INGRSLL-RO	39.2	39.1
JEFF PILOT	34.2	34.2
JEP R-5	80.0	80.0
JOHNSON COM	35.6	35.7
JOHNSON-JMS	89.4	88.4
K HART CP	40.0	40.0
KAN CI P-L	28.2	28.2
KELLOGG	28.6	28.5
KERR MCGEE	41.7	41.6
KEYSTONE	19.6	19.7
KIMB-CLARK	60.6	60.5
KLH R D AI	21.1	21.1
KR RND HNS	46.6	46.4
KROGER CP	10.1	10.1
LEA ROMAL	17.0	17.0
LEHMAN	12.1	12.1
LEHMAN	21.0	21.0
LINCOLN NA	49.0	49.0
LITTON IND	78.6	78.6
LOCKHEED	48.1	47.7
LOCCITE CP	38.1	37.5
LOEWS CORP	86.4	86.3
LOW-METTEL	0	30.5
LOWE STAR	31.2	31.0
LOWES	25.1	25.2
LTD INC	30.7	30.7
LTV CORP	2.2	2.2
LTV 1-25	0	2.7
LTV 3-058	3.7	3.7
LUBRIZOL	38.6	38.4
LUBS COPS	27.5	27.5
MAHLE	7.5	7.5
MALAYSIA F	1.1	1.1
MARITIME	45.7	45.6
MARJETA	7.7	8.0
MAR COR INC	14.1	14.0
MANU HANOV	32.7	32.7
MANVILLE	0	26.6
MARITIME	30.5	30.3
MASCO CORP	25.4	25.4
MATTEL INC	183.4	181.0
MCDONALDS	50.6	50.6
MCDONNELL	91.0	90.6
MCDONNELL	67.0	66.6
MEAD	38.5	37.7
MERCK - CO	66.2	65.5
MERIDITH	31.5	31.4
MERRILL LY	28.5	28.6
MESA OFFSH	1.4	1.5
MOBIL OIL	49.6	49.5
MOISANTO	93.0	93.0
MONTANA PO	35.1	35.2
MONTANA JP	35.3	35.3
MORT THIO	44.7	44.7

NEW YORK (Continued)

03/ADY	GEN INSTR	31/0	30/7	NBR
03/ADY	GEN MILLS	57/6	57/4	NCR
07/9/5	GEN MOTORS	85/4	85/3	NEU
07/9/5	GEN SIGNAL	50/4	50/4	NEU
02/2/5	GENCORP	17/2	17/1	NEU
02/5/6	GENETECH	19/7	19/6	NEU
02/5/6	GENIE PA	37/0	37/1	NEU
02/5/6	GENO PMT-80	0	75/2	NH
07/9/7	GEORGI-PAC	42/2	42/1	NH
04/5/3	GIBR FI CL	,11	,12	NICO
04/5/3	GLOBAL MAR	0	,12	NICO
04/5/3	GOLDEN MUG	19/0	19/0	NL
00/0/0	GOODRICH	53/7	53/7	NOR
00/0/0	GOODYEAR	48/1	47/7	NOR
26/1/0	GRACE MR	29/4	29/1	NOR
02/6/0	GRATINGER	54/2	54/2	NOR
01/9/4	GREYHOUND	29/6	29/4	NUVO
05/5/6	GRUMMAN	21/5	21/6	NUVO
05/5/6	GULF RES-C	11/6	11/6	OAK
07/7/7	GULF-WESTN	48/6	47/3	OCC
07/7/7	HALLIBURTN	31/0	30/7	OCEA
01/4/6	HALLWOOD	15/0	15/0	OGE
04/1/2	HANNA MIN	23/3	23/4	OH E
04/1/2	HARRIS CP	27/5	27/4	OHIO
04/1/2	HARTMARX	26/2	26/1	OHIO
03/2/3	HEINZ NJ	49/6	49/4	OWIN
03/2/3	HEL CURTIS	50/0	50/0	OWIN
05/6/5	HELM-PAYNE	24/4	24/6	PAIM
02/6/2	HERCULES	46/7	47/1	PAN
02/6/2	HEW-PACK	56/0	55/2	PARK
02/6/2	HILLERBRD	35/2	35/2	PARK
02/6/2	HILLERBRD	26/6	26/6	PARK
02/6/2	HILLERBRD	35/3	35/5	PATR
07/8/6	HILTY HTLS	50/5	50/3	PULLI
07/8/6	HITACHI	121/4	121/2	PCA
07/8/6	HMSCKE MIN	14/4	14/5	PEG
07/8/6	HNDY-HARMN	19/6	19/6	PENK
07/8/6	HOLIDAY C	30/4	30/5	PENK
07/8/6	HOM DEPOT	35/0	35/4	PENK
07/8/6	HOMEDPC CP	33/0	33/2	PEOP
07/8/6	HONDA MOTR	151/6	149/3	PEPS
07/8/6	HONEYWELL	63/4	63/3	PEPS
07/8/6	HOUGHTON IN	47/0	47/0	PHIL
07/8/6	HOUSTON IN	27/4	27/4	PHIL
07/8/6	HUGHES SUP	18/3	18/3	PHIL
07/8/6	HUMANA INC	28/4	28/5	PINN
07/8/6	IBM	119/2	118/7	PIOT
07/8/6	ICN PHARMA	6/5	6/5	PIT
07/8/6	ILLI PUR CO	17/2	17/1	POLA
07/8/6	ILLIN 4-G08	18/6	18/4	PORT
07/8/6	INDIA GROB	9/4	9/3	PPG
07/8/6	INGRESS-RA	39/2	39/1	PRIM
07/8/6	JEFF PILOT	34/2	34/2	PRIM
07/8/6	JER PM 8-5	80/0	80/0	PRIM
07/8/6	JOHNSON CO	35/6	35/7	PROC
07/8/6	JOHNSON-JNS	89/4	88/4	PUGE
07/8/6	K MART CP	40/0	40/0	PULT
07/8/6	KAN CI P-L	28/2	28/2	QUAK
07/8/6	KELLWOOD	28/6	28/5	QUAK
07/8/6	KERR CLARGE	41/7	41/6	QUAK
07/8/6	KEYSTONE	19/6	19/7	RANS
07/8/6	KIMB-CLACK	60/6	60/5	RANG
07/8/6	KLM R D AI	21/1	21/1	RANG

AMMAN

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Currency rates

OP

JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83
JOR LIM BRICK	0.21	0.22
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK		
JOR PAPER CARDBROG	3.75	3.60

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRAD
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KUWAIT, March 14, (KUNA): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.28914	0.29029
Sterling	0.49500	0.49730
Dm.	0.15495	0.15570
S. fr.	0.18110	0.18195
F. fr.	0.04575	0.04595
L. lira	0.0002110	0.0002125
Jap yen	0.0022240	0.0022350
Bh. dinar	0.76690	0.77020
UAE dir.	0.07870	0.07905
S. riyal	0.07705	0.07745
Qat. riyal	0.07940	0.07975
O. riyal	0.75100	0.75420

Saudi riyal deposits ease as banks lend funds

NICOSIA, March 14 (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits eased in moderate trade today as banks in the kingdom lent fixed period funds, reversing the previous day's rate rise. Forward lenders said rates for long-term maturities declined around 1/8 point after rising the same amount yesterday on the back of firmer Eurodollar rates. Operators had responded by borrowing riyal deposits to swap into dollars on the forward market.

Excess funds had probably pumped some kingdom banks to lend one to three-month funds, exerting downward pressure for the first time this month.

Tight
The kingdom market has been tight recently due to a chronic shortage of government payments.

Spot-next fell 1/2 point to 10-1/4, 9-3/4 per cent while one-week was little changed at 10-3/8, 9-7/8 per cent.

The one and three-months both eased 1/8 point to 10-1/4, 1/16 and 10-3/8, 1/4 respectively. Six-months eased 1/16 point on the bid side to 10-11/16, 1/2 per cent. One-year also eased 1/8 point on the bid side to 10-7/8, 5/8 per cent.

KD deposits steady in thin trade

KUWAIT, March 14, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits were generally steady in the money trade today, but one-month funds showed a response to a leading by a major Kuwaiti bank.

Dealers said the Kuwaiti bank which lent the one-month appeared to have excess funds from maturing deposits, but most traders were still short of dinars.

Day-to-day funds were all bid at 10 percent, with overnight at 10 percent, and with offers steady at 12. Business was reported in the tomorrow-next at 10 percent.

One-month dealt at 10-1/4, 10-1/8, and finally 10 percent, with final quotes slipping to 10-1/8-9/34 from 10-3/8, 9-7/8 early in the day.

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Interbank Rates

CALL		ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	12-7/8 3/4	12-15/16 7/8	13-12-15/16
FFT	5.85/90	6.20/25	6.55/65
PAR	8-8-1/4	8-5/8 3/4	9-1/8 1/4
ZUR	4-7/8 5-1/8	5-1/2 5-3/4	5-5/8 5-7/8
BRX	8.10	8.00 1/8	8-1/4 3/8
ROM	12-7/8 13-3/8	13-1/8 13-5/8	13-1/4 13-5/4
AMS	5.75/00	6.70/80	6.90/00
TOK	3.28/32 30/32	4.25/32 27/32	UMA
EDU	8.12 8.37	8.62 8.75	8.87 9.00

Interest Rates

Following are the average KIR interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	9-15/16	10-3/16
3 months	9-5/8	10-1/16
6 months	9-9/16	10-1/16
1 year	9-7/16	9-15/16

BOMBAY

	PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CANSAHRE	172.50	170	175	GRASIN	103.50	102	99.50
ACC	296.50	294	293	CEN ENKA	2670	2650	2640	GRAD E	35	34.50	34.75
ALLEN CHEN	--	--	--	CEN SP	1770	1760	1685	GSFC	151.25	150	151.25
ALV MIS	--	--	--	COLGATE	345	345	337.50	GUJ AKL	--	--	--
ARI FAB	--	--	--	CROWT GR	800	--	--	GUJ HEAVY	12	11	12.5
ASNOK LEY	70	68	69	DEEP FERT	36	35	10.50	HERO HONDA	31.50	31	31
ATISA PAINT	221.25	218.75	217.50	DUNLOP	76	75	76	HIND CIBA	990	970	995
ATLAS COP	48	50	46	EI HOTELS	56	54	56	HIND COCOA	111.25	111.25	108.75
AUTO CORP	78	75	74	ESORTS	62.50	61.50	63	HIND MOTOR	34.50	33.50	79
BAJAJ AUTO	390	385	382.50	ESKAYE	142.50	137.50	137.50	HINDALCO	265	262.50	257.50
BAJAJ RAYON	360	360	355	ESSAR SP	21.50	21.50	21.50	HOECHST	735	710	700
BK BOND	126	124	127	FOOD SPL	--	--	--	IND ORG	31	31	2
BLOM PLAST	--	--	--	FORBES	65	63	64	IND RAYON	89	87.50	80
BON DYE	134	134	133.50	GAR POLY	77.50	75	78.75	INDROL	303.75	306.25	300
BSE INDEX	355.00	--	353.53	GLINDIA	93	90.50	91	INGERSOLL	390	380	360
BUHR MEL	195	192.50	190	GNFC	47.50	47.50	47	ITC	61	61	5

FRANKELBT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	214.0	214.5
ALLIANZ VR	1777.0	1777.0
BADEMWERK	185.0	184.0
BASF	288.0	288.0
BAYER	297.5	294.5
BAYER HYP	356.0	355.5
BAYER VER	368.0	365.2
BBK	449.0	440.0
BHW	682.0	479.0
BNF	522.8	515.0
COMMERZBK	241.0	234.5
CORTI GUMM	244.0	244.0
DALNER BER	672.0	667.5
DEUTSCH BANK	513.5	509.0
DLW	688.0	486.0
DRESNER & B	310.5	305.0
DT BARCOCK	169.5	167.8
FAGZUMUEND	358.78	352.28
FELDKOWITZ	332.0	326.0
GLOCKENWID	398.0	391.0
HAAS	442.0	442.0
HOECHST AG	259.0	259.0
HOESCH	231.0	231.0
HORTEN	225.0	223.0
HUSSEL HLD	469.0	469.0
KAL SALZ	208.5	208.5
KARSTADT	427.0	430.5
KLAUFROF	418.5	418.2
KLOCKE H	181.7	179.5
KLOCKE W	162.5	158.0
LINDE	796.0	797.0
LUTHFRANSA	163.0	160.0
NAN	260.3	257.5
MANHESSEN	230.0	227.0
MERCEDES	536.0	536.0
METALLBERG	405.5	402.0
NORDOFF PF	299.3	300.3
NOV HFD	44.0	44.0
PHILIP KORN	664.0	658.0
POESCHKE	728.0	725.0
PREUSSAG	284.0	284.0
PRMA	255.0	253.0
RHEINMETAL	463.0	444.0
RUE	215.0	245.0
RHE P	219.5	216.0
SALAMANDER	333.0	332.0
SCHERLING	613.5	612.0
SEL	299.8	297.0
SIEMENS	531.5	523.5
THYSSSEN	230.3	226.0
VERA	355.0	354.0
VARTA	290.5	285.2
VOLK	169.0	170.3
WESLAGEN	352.2	348.2

INDEX

STOCK		LAST PR-CLSE		MITSUB CP		1510	1510
AJJINOMOTO	2580	2590	MITSUB EL	1060	1050		
AKAI ELEC	704	700	MITSUB EST	2580	2600		
ADOKI	1400	1330	MITSUB HWY	1090	1090		
ASARI GLS	2090	2120	MITSUB CO	1160	1150		
ASARI OPT	888	895	MITSUBKSHI	2270	2260		
BANK TOKYO	1700	1700	MITSUMI EL	981	992		
BRIDGESTON	1330	1350	NICHICOM	1270	1280		
CANON	1490	1480	NIHON CHMT	1180	1160		
CASIO COMP	1340	1320	NIKKO SEC	1920	1910		
CHUGAI PHM	1470	1450	NIP ELEC	1780	1770		
CITIZEN W	970	959	NIP KOKKAN	912	916		
D-ICHI KAN	3520	3530	NIP OIL	1660	1660		
DAL NIP IK	890	891	NIP STEEL	914	910		
DAL NIP PT	2320	2350	NIP YUSEN	902	902		
DAL NIP SC	970	970	NIS MOTOR	1440	1420		
DAL NIP TO	931	928	NOMURA SEC	3460	3480		
DAICEL	920	908	OHRA CO	925	921		
DATIMA H	2020	1980	OLYMPUS	1180	1160		
DATIMA SEC	2340	2340	RENISA OCM	1380	1260		
EBRA-MFG	1820	1800	PIONEER	3060	3020		
EISAI	1950	1910	RENGAN	974	980		
FUJITSU	1440	1430	RICON	1150	1140		
FUJI BANK	3560	3550	SANKYO	2160	2130		
FUJI PHOTO	3200	3110	SANYO ELEC	900	880		
FUJISAWA	1640	1620	SEIYU ST	2150	2020		
FUJITA CP	1950	1910	SEKISUI PB	1740	1800		
HITACHI	1570	1560	SHARP	1210	1160		
HONDA MOT	1950	1950	SHISEIDO	1680	1660		
ISETAN	2350	2310	SUNY	6840	6630		
ITO YOKADO	3590	3590	SUNITOMO	1340	1340		
JAP SYN R	1250	1200	TAISEI	1800	1740		
JAPAN AIR	15500	15300	TAISHO NRN	1370	1360		
JAPAN MET	995	1000	TAKEDA CH	2330	2300		
KAJIMA	2260	2250	TEIJJIN	840	830		
KANSAI EL	4810	4590	TOK NEW IX	407.52	392.89		
KAO SOAP	1580	1590	TOKYO NRN	2160	2190		
KAWASAKI H	935	935	TOKYO ELEC	1310	1320		
KAWASAKI S	934	934	TOKYO GAS	1160	1130		
KIRIN BREW	1820	1820	TOKYO POMR	6050	6500		
KOMATSU	1200	1160	TORAY IND	923	913		
KUGABO LTD	1130	1120	TOSHIBA EL	1180	1150		
KYOGERA	4380	4270	TOTO	1960	1940		
KAKITA EL	1520	1520	TOYO KKOGY	858	852		
MARUI	2630	2630	TOYOTA MOT	2480	2480		
MATSUTA EI	2400	2340	YAMAH	1390	1390		
MATSUTA EL	0	2660	YAMATCHI	1850	1840		
MEIJI SEIK	971	979	YAMAMOUCHI	3570	3500		
			YAMAZAKI	1370	1380		

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS END UP, NEAR HIGHS ON STABLE CURRENCY
 TOKYO, MARCH 14, REUTER - SHARE PRICES ROSE TO CLOSE NEAR THEIR HIGHS IN MODERATELY ACTIVE TRADE. RELATIVE STABILITY IN THE YEN-DOLLAR RATE TODAY AFTER RENEWED YEN WEAKNESS OVERNIGHT SPURRED BUYING. PRICES WERE HELPED FURTHER BY LATE FUTURES-RELATED BUYING, BROKERS SAID.
 THE KEY 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX ROSE 171.39 POINTS, OR 0.54 PCT, TO CLOSE AT 31,724.35, JUST AFTER HITTING A DAY'S HIGH OF 31,735.73. THE NIKKEI ENDED DOWN 148.82 POINTS ON MONDAY.
 VOLUME ALSO ROSE TO TOTAL 800 MLN SHARES FROM 564 MLN ON MONDAY, THE LOWEST LEVEL THIS YEAR.
 "THE CURRENCY RATE STABILIZED TODAY, BUT INVESTORS ARE STILL UNSURE ABOUT THE NEXT MOVES," SAID YOZO ASAI, A BROKER AT YAMAICHI SECURITIES CO LTD.
 "THE MARKET IS PREOCCUPIED WITH CURRENCY RATES BECAUSE OF THE RELATION TO DOMESTIC INTEREST RATES," HE SAID.
 A WEAKER YEN MEANS GREATER CHANCES OF IMPORTED INFLATION. A NEW THREE PCT CONSUMPTION TAX FROM APRIL 1 COULD ADD TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURE AND PROMPT AUTHORITIES TO RAISE THE OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE, BROKERS SAID.
 BUT MOST DO NOT EXPECT ANY RATE RISE IN THE CURRENT LOW INFLATION SITUATION, THEY SAID.
 THE DOLLAR BROKE THROUGH A PSYCHOLOGICAL 130-YEN BARRIER IN NEW YORK ON MONDAY, SPARKING CONCERN THE U.S. CURRENCY COULD STRENGTHEN FURTHER AND SEND THE NIKKEI AVERAGE 36.57 POINTS OFF TO THE DAY'S LOW OF 31,516.39 AT MID-MORNING.
 THE DOLLAR EASED AFTER FIRING IN OPENING TRADE HERE. AS A RESULT, YEN BOND PRICES TOOK AN INVERSE COURSE, FIRING FROM OPENING LEVELS, WHICH ENCOURAGED STOCK INVESTORS WHO HAVE KEPT A CLOSE EYE ON THE BOND MARKET FOR HINTS ABOUT THE FURTHER DIRECTION OF INTEREST RATES, BROKERS SAID.
 THE FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, ROSE 14.63 POINTS TO 2,407.52 AFTER A 15.35-POINT LOSS ON MONDAY.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 14, REUTER - AS THE HONG KONG MARKET TRIED TO REACH A CONSENSUS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY, STOCKS ROSE, FELL AND ROSE AGAIN TO END marginally HIGHER.

"THE TRUTH IS THE MARKET DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THINGS ARE HEADED BUT WILL BE A LOT OF BACK AND FORTH UNTIL THERE IS SOME CONSENSUS," A BROKER SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX FIRMED 4.90 TO 3,034.79. THE BROADER BASED HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 5.64 TO 2,006.28.

TURNOVER WAS 1.34 BILLION H.K. DLS. AGAINST 1.14 BILLION . ON MONDAY.

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				BC-A	80.50	81.50	81.50
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LCA-A	31	32	32
ANC-A	14.50	14.75	14.75	LCA-B	32	33	32
JAC-A	2.85	2.90	2.95	PK-A	30	31	31
GLO	31.50	32.00	31.50	PK-B	31	32	31
PLDT	252.50	255.00	255.00				
XPST-A	3.15	3.25	6.25	OIL SECTOR			
XPST-B	3.40			BP-A	.015	.016	.016
SMC-A	150.00	151.00	150.00	BP-B	.016	.017	.017
SMC-B	243.00	245.00	243.00	LRC-A	.0036	.0038	.0036
				LRC-B	.0036		
MINING SECTOR				OPM-A	.0550	.0575	.0650
APX-A	.021	.022	.022	OPM-B	.06	.0625	.07
APX-B	.022	.023	.022	OV-A	.033	.034	.035
AT-A	45.50	45.50	45.00	OV-B	.034	.035	.035

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
COMM-IND.	545,885	7,109,260	974.34	1.29 UP
MINING	154,720,850	14,631,075	5,166.36	33.90 DN
OIL	1,016,800,000	27,560,450	6.869	0.576 DN
TOTAL	1,172,066,735	49,300,785	903.9	25.95 DN

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR									
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	BC-A	80.00	80.50	81.00		
SMC-A	150.00	151.00	150.00	BC-B	85.00	98.00			
SMC-B	240.00	244.00	243.00	LC-A	-.31	-.32	.32		
SMC-C	36.00	36.50	36.50	LC-B	-.32	-.33	.32		
PLDT	252.50	255.00	252.50	ZIP	-.13	-.014	.014		
AMC-A2-8.85	2	3	3.00						
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	OIL SECTOR					
AMC-A	14.75	15.00	14.75	STOCK		BUY	SELL	OPEN	
FER-A	34.75	32.00	31.50	BP-A	-.015	-.016	-.017		
FER-B	2.32	2.34	2.34	BP-B	-.015	-.016	-.017		
FER-B	2.42	2.50	2.40	LRC-A	-.0034	-.0038	-.0034		
				LRC-B	-.0034				
MINING SECTOR				OPW-A	-.0550	-.0575	-.0650		
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	OPW-B	-.0575	-.0625	-.0725		
APX-A	.02	.022	.023	OPW-C	-.032	-.033	-.034		
APX-B	.021	.022	.023	OV-A	-.034	-.035	-.035		
AT-A	45.00	45.50	45.00	OV-B	-.022	-.023	-.023		
AT-B	46.00	46.50	45.00						

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	1,382,980	18,565,605	962.54	DN 3.56
MINING	259,473,250	28,432,880	4943.34	UP 1.60
OILS	1,148,810,000	38,232,450	7.261	DN .539
TOTAL	1,409,666,230	85,230,935	905.98	DN 24.57

SINGAPORE

NAME	LAST	PR	CL	G KENT	65	6	KIAN JO		15
DEF A				G LUMBER	114	10	L. K. TAN	72	71
DEF B				G TOWN		11	N FLOUR	286	28
JINOKOTO				G U HDLGS	----	10	M GLASS	240	22
HAL IND	102	20		GANDA HDG	32	6	K TIN PRT	60.5	6
HAL PROP		26		GEN CORP	61.5	31.	M UTD IND	200	18
INCOL	138	13		GENTING	535	53	N UTD MFG	83	7
ERJERJA	112	11		GOLD COCH	199	18	H'SHITA		61
HOUSTEAD	138	13		ISI	139	13	H'WATA		86.
LIENBERG				GUINNESS	352	35	MAGNUM	229	22
ACH				55 GULA	----	28.	HALEX IND		38
EREBOS	610	60		H L IND.	209	20	MCB IND	78	7
HEM IND	304	29		HARINAU	110	10	METAL BOX	428	42
K TANG	392	39		HAW PAR	334	33	METRO	595	58
BOLD STOR	354	35		HEXZA	64.5	6	MPLHAIND		30.
S HDLGS	43.5	43.		HUME IND	168	17	MURATA		
KKH				INNOVEST	90.5	90.	MURATA100		
NIB BHD	130	13		INSAS	41	4	KYCOM BHD		18
UTA CON	----			INT WOOD	----	7	NB TIMBER	96	9
BUTCHBAEY				INTRACO	268	26	NOL LTD	147	14
LEC MAGN				J ENGRG	302	29	PILECON		8
UYAN S.D.	172	17		JC ENT	100	10	ROTH IND	203	20
SSO GRD.				JC-NPH	116	11	ROTHMAN M		72
A C B	24.5	2		JOHAN HDG	40.5	4	S PACIFIC		34
E SHIP	258	25		K G HDGS		10	S PRESS	665	66
EN ORD	820	80		K KELLAS		22	S PRESS F	680	68
EB FLORE	----			KAMUNTING	81.5	8	S SHIP	418	41
DEB CABLE				KE SANG	----	11	S'WANG M	179	17
MA BHD				KEK SENG	171	17	SATERAS	50.5	5
LIITEP.				KEPPEL	376	36	STA	1380	138
				KE FLORP		28	ST. TRANC	354	34

Singapore Stock Market Report

SINGAPORE STOCK PRICES RISE ON RECORD TURNOVER

SINGAPORE, MARCH 14, REUTER - SHARE PRICES ROSE OVER A BROADFRONT FRONT ON WIDESPREAD BUYING WITH TURNOVER HITTING AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 102.9 MLN SHARES, SURPASSING THE 85.7 MLN SHARE MARK SET ON JUL. 10, 1981.

BROKERS SAID THAT, APART FROM A MARRIED DEAL OF 15.0 MLN SINGAPOREAN SHIPYARD SHARES AT 4.78 DLSR PER SHARE, THERE WAS HEAVY BUYING OF LOWER-PRICED HOTEL AND PROPERTY STOCKS AND WARRANTS.

"I AM VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE HUGE VOLUME WHICH REFLECTS HEAVY SPECULATIVE INTEREST IN PROPERTY STOCKS," ROBERT TAY INVESTMENT MANAGER OF DBS SECURITIES PTE LTD SAID.

ZÜRICH

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	DE BUEHR I	1180	160
BAER KUS	12200	11900	DE BUEHR N	390	387
BALOISE PS	2425	2410	DE BUEHR P	348	346
SBC I A	2935	2910	ROCHE BABY	14000	13900
BK LEU I	3225	3275	ROCHE I	33000	32000
BK LEU M	2725	2750	RUECKVER I	9625	9600
BK LEU PS	382	383	RUECKVER M	7650	7500
CFV	0	1150	RUECKVER P	1680	1695
CIB GEIG I	3225	3215	RY TR BK	1130	1150
CIB GEIG M	2640	2640	S BNGKSL I	3210	3185
CIB GEIG P	2535	2530	S BNGKSL M	672	680
CIB	1330	1300	S BNGKSL P	117.50	117.50
CRED SU I	2925	2910	S BNGKSL I	32	323
CRED SU M	588	588	S BNGKSL M	296.00	295.00
EX LAUFEN	1800	1775	S BNGKSL P	286	284
ELEKTROWAT	2925	2900	SAINDOZ I	10150	10300
ENS CHEK I	4340	4360	SAINDOZ N	8980	8980
GLOBUS I	6250	6200	SAINDOZ PS	1850	1840
GLOBUS M	6500	6500	SULZER N	5625	5650
GLOBUS PS	1040	1050	SULZER PS	443	450
JACOBS S I	7470	7460	SVB	1700	1690
JACOBS S M	1400	1390	SHISSAIR N	1090	1080
JACOBS S P	640	647	SHISSAIR M	970	970
JELI I	2350	2325	W THUR I	4320	4320
JELH PS	338	337	W THUR M	3490	3495
LANDIS N	1260	1235	W THUR PS	717	718
LANDIS PS	114.00	113.00	ZURICH I	4925	4850
MERCK I	765	768	ZURICH N	3870	3880
			ZURICH PS	1950	1945

US auditing finances of 23 TV ministries

WASHINGTON, March 14 (AP)—The US Internal Revenue Service is auditing the finances of 23 television ministries and expects the probe could jeopardise the federal tax exemption of some evangelists.

"The Service is continuing to devote significant examination resources to media evangelists," Robert I. Brauer, executive of IRS commissioner in charge of exempt organisations, said in a report to Congressman J.J. Pickle, chairman of the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee. Pickle released the report yesterday.

Because of privacy laws, the report did not mention the ministries by name. Identifying them only by number, Brauer outlined four key issues against the 23, most of which are suspected of not fully reporting their income, engaging in political activities or allowing their earnings to benefit officials of the ministry.

Taxes

The IRS, which is in charge of collecting taxes in the United States and enforcing tax laws, stepped up its examination of television ministries after the well-publicised sex-and-bribery scandal at the PTL organisation headed by Jim Bakker.

PTL, which apparently is ministry No. 15 in the report, is in bankruptcy court. The IRS is pressing claims that Bakker and his associates failed to pay tax on unrelated business income, such as from rental of PTL's satellite network; failed to report some income; and used PTL contributions for their own enrichment, including acceptance of salaries that the IRS contends were excessive.

Brauer said he expects several of the TV ministry cases "will make the final stages of the examination process this year."

"We also anticipate that some of these cases will present serious issues relating to continued federal income tax exemption," Brauer said.

Records

In a cover letter, Brauer said two organisations connected with former Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson have refused to provide records of the type that other TV ministries have provided voluntarily.

Because the Freedom Council and the National Freedom Institute would not co-operate, the letter stated, the IRS had to go to federal court in Norfolk, Virginia, to seek to enforce a summons for the records.

"The degree of co-operation received by the Service varies from case to case and, in one case involving a prominent evangelist.

Scandal probe frightens Japan's high and mighty

12 top officials arrested

TOKYO, March 14, (Reuters): Japan's high and mighty are covering these days as an elite investigative team digs into what analysts are now calling the nation's biggest political scandal ever.

Over the past few weeks, Japanese television viewers have watched investigators from the Tokyo prosecutor's office raiding top corporate offices and the homes of senior businessmen and former bureaucrats.

The team's aim is to find links to Recruit Company, a publishing and telecommunications conglomerate which has handed out gifts and contributions to more than 100 public figures.

Investigators
The investigators have so far arrested 12 top private and public officials in the case, which some political analysts think could conceivably bring down the government.

Their reputation for the independence and incorruptibility brings to mind the "untouchables" — the virtuous federal agents in the United States in 1920s who battled against a political climate riddled with corruption.

No leading politician of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has gone unscathed in the scandal, with accusations of corruption reaching even Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and his immediate predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Members of the special investigative unit refuse to be interviewed.

"To a surprising extent, they are quiet independent from the politics of government," said political science professor Kuniko Inoguchi of Tokyo's Sofia University.

She said the government is giving the special prosecutors free rein in an effort to demonstrate the independence of the judiciary branch.

"This is the basis of democracy. The independence of the prosecutors is quite assured," Inoguchi said.

Observers have cautioned that the Justice Ministry, whose chief is appointed by the prime minister, controls the prosecutors.

Consequences

By law it can summarily halt investigations, and there have been cases in the past when it has done just that without suffering any dire political consequences. Inoguchi pointed to examples in other democracies where sensitive investigations have been halted, the pardon of former US President Richard Nixon, for instance, and the Prince Bernhard affair in the Netherlands.

This time, however, political



Takao Fujinami, former chief cabinet secretary during former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's administration, is seen in a November 1, 1984 picture. A Japanese paper reported that Fujinami used 26 million yen (\$2 million) made through Recruit stock to buy a house in Tokyo. His secretary denied the report. (Reuters wirephoto)

analysts say it would be impossible for the government to halt the investigation. Takeshita's popularity rating is already at a post-war low and any interference would cause a public outcry.

The Tokyo prosecutor's office also tried to untangle the Lockheed payoff scandal of the 1970s, in which former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was indicted for taking \$1.6 million in bribes.

Appeal

That case is still under appeal, but Tanaka did serve some time in jail.

Takeshita Tachibana, the freelance journalist who in the 1970s broke a separate story on corruption involving Nakasone's underground finances, said the investigation into the Recruit affair appears to be more thorough than in the Lockheed affair.

"There are certainly more investigators on the case," Tachibana said. "This is a bigger investigation than Lockheed."

In the Lockheed probe, prosecutors got most of the relevant documents from the United States. "They didn't get the evidence themselves," said political commentator Tetsuro Murobushi. "This time all of the investigating is being done by the

Japanese prosecutors."

The mid-February indictment of Hisashi Shinto, former chairman of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, one of Japan's highest-profile companies, persuaded political analysts that the Japanese investigators meant business about the Recruit scandal.

Target

With Shinto in custody, the next target could be former Premier Nakasone, said commentator Murobushi.

Nakasone has been accused of helping to arrange the sale of a multimillion-dollar supercomputer from Shinto's NTT to Recruit, in exchange for bribes. Nakasone has denied any such wrongdoing.

"Lots of people thought that Shinto would never be indicted," Murobushi said.

"They turned a corner when they arrested Shinto," Inoguchi said. "They've really showed this won't be dealt with in an ambiguous way."

A Japanese paper reported that Takao Fujinami, former chief cabinet secretary during Nakasone's administration, used 26 million yen (\$2 million) made through Recruit stock to buy a house in Tokyo. His secretary denied the report.

Bid to create favourable conditions

Kampuchea woos foreign investors

BANGKOK, Thailand, March 14, (AP): Kampuchea will create all possible favourable conditions for foreign investors as part of its economic reforms. Prime Minister Hun Sen told the country's first national economic conference.

"Economic reform is of great importance" in Kampuchea, the premier told the conference to discuss the social and economic development programme for 1986 to 1990.

Hun Sen's speech came at last Wednesday's closing of the week-long conference in Kampuchea's capital of Phnom Penh. A text was carried in an official Kampuchean news agency SPK report seen in Bangkok today.

The report said Hun Sen reaffirmed that the country "would carry on with its open-door

policy toward the national economy whose composition includes state and private sectors."

He quoted the premier as saying the government "will create all possible favourable conditions for foreign investors to work in the country so that they can help restore and develop Kampuchea's national economy."

The government has pared down some of the more orthodox features of socialist planning to try to develop what is one of the world's most impoverished countries.

But most Western nations embargo economic relations with Hun Sen's government, which they do not recognise because Vietnamese forces installed it after invading Kampuchea in late 1978. Another

barrier to economic development is that the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh forces are still battling guerrillas for control of the country.

The SPK report said Hun Sen pointed to shortcomings in the economic restoration which, he said, "are due to the hasty formation of a socialist-oriented style of production when the productive forces were premature."

It said the leader "slashed out" at barriers to reform including the bureaucracy, red tape, and the failure to improve working conditions.

He said the government was focussing on developing rice, rubber, timber and fishing and said it sought to improve living conditions especially for state cadres, employees and members of the armed forces.



Buy and sell orders

Stock brokers busily match up buy and sell orders on the floor of the Korea Stock Exchange in heavy trading on Monday in Seoul. The market has been on a seven day bull run led by institutions freed from the constraints of recent tight monetary policy and looks set to break the 1,000-point mark by the end of year. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saudi Arabia to cut crude supplies to Japan

Oil prices firm

TOKYO, March 14, (Reuters): News that Saudi Arabia will cut crude supplies to Japan by 30 per cent in April boosted oil prices in the Far East today.

"It's going to give the market a good kick," said one international oil trader.

Reports that major Western oil companies bought several cargoes of Mideast crudes on the spot market yesterday gave rise to speculation that they also had been informed of a cut in supplies from Saudi Arabia, traders said.

West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, traded at \$18.70 a barrel for May in Tokyo today, seven cents over its closing price on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) futures market yesterday.

Supply

US oil prices hit a seven-week high yesterday as news of a temporary shutdown of Norway's Ekofisk oilfield prompted technical buying at NYMEX.

"Ekofisk brought the market up yesterday, but that's only temporary and the market's really been supported

by today's news of Saudi supply cuts," said a major oil company trader.

Saudi Arabia told Japanese buyers that it will supply only 105,000 barrels per day (BPD) of crude in April out of their total contract volume of 150,000 BPD, industry sources said.

The reduction in supplies is much larger than Japanese firms anticipated, the sources said.

In addition, Japanese oil companies must comply with a government request to cut back on soaring Iranian imports by 20 to 25 per cent in April, they said.

Availability

Japanese firms have asked Iraq to supply some 180,000 BPD of crude in April, compared to a contract volume of around 135,000 BPD, but have not yet heard whether Iraq will supply this volume, oil sources said.

Mideast crude supply to the Far East in the second quarter is therefore becoming tighter despite the seasonally lower demand which most traders had expected to

pull prices down at least by \$1 or 2 in the next three months.

"Relative to the West this market might weaken a bit, but overall it is not likely to weaken much," said the international oil trader.

The availability of Mideast crude has been declining since November 1988 when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to limit group output to 18.5 million BPD in the first half of 1989 to boost OPEC oil prices to a targeted \$18 a barrel.

Total OPEC output has dropped from 22.3 million BPD in the fourth quarter of last year, to around 19.65 million in February, and oil prices have risen by some \$4 a barrel.

But the Mideast benchmark crude, from Dubai, is still trading more than \$2 below OPEC's target and some Japanese oil companies predict prices will weaken again in the second quarter unless OPEC output falls further.

"I doubt this strength will continue," said Yasuhiko Tashiro, chief economist at the Idemitsu Oil Company.

US reticent on Brady plan

Debt-reduction proposal

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): The White House reserved judgement yesterday on Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's debt-reduction plan for developing countries, although it has been well received internationally.

"No final decision has been made in terms of an approach to Third World debt," Deputy Treasury Secretary Roman Popadiuk told a White House briefing.

Brady's plan, which he unveiled in a speech on Friday, has as its central element the partial forgiveness by commercial banks of the \$410 billion in debt run up by developing nations, most of them in Latin America.

The plan represents a major shift in administration thinking.

It would supplant a strategy developed by former Treasury Secretary James Baker — now the Secretary of State — that ruled out debt forgiveness and called instead for new loans by banks to countries that institute economic reforms.

This previous strategy — known as the "Baker plan" — produced little in the way of new

bank loans, however. And in his speech on Friday, Brady all but conceded the past strategy had failed to solve the debt crisis.

The new Brady plan has received generally favourable reviews both at home and abroad, but disagreement remained within the government over details, administration sources said.

Ideas

Deputy Treasury Secretary David Mulford said yesterday that Brady's ideas were put forward as "ideas and suggestions" for debate among countries and institutions, and not as a definite plan.

In a briefing on the proposals for foreign reporters, Mulford insisted they enjoyed broad support within the Bush administration.

Asked about reports of disagreements with the Federal Reserve system — the US central bank — which is independent of the administration, Mulford said:

"I'm not aware of any deep division between us on these suggestions."

Mulford said "it would be our hope" that policy changes will be in place "within a matter of some months" to cut the debts and interest payments of Third World countries.

Still, on Friday and again on Monday, the White House appeared to be going out of its way to put some distance between itself and the new proposal. "Secretary Brady had a number of ideas. He presented those ideas. The president was aware of those ideas," Popadiuk said.

And, he said, while Brady as Treasury Secretary "speaks for the administration" on such matters, "no final decision has been reached" by Bush.

Popadiuk said the outline that Brady offered remains "under consideration."

Popadiuk characterised the Brady proposal as one that "builds on the Baker plan" rather than repudiating it.

American banks earn record profits

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): US banks earned a record \$25.3 billion last year, the government said yesterday. But a top regulator chided the industry for passing on more than half the profits to stockholders and advised banks to adopt a more conservative approach.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation chairman L. William Seidman, previewing a report to be issued by his agency today, said bank profits for the three months ending Dec 31 hit \$6.7 billion, an all-time high and \$800 million more than the previous record of \$5.9 billion set in the third quarter.

"This is the first time we have ever seen consecutive record-setting quarters," he said in a speech prepared for delivery to the New York Society of Securities analysts.

For all of 1988, the nation's 13,200 commercial banks earned \$25.3 billion, up from \$17.7 billion in 1987 and topping the previous highwater mark of \$18.1 billion, set in 1985.

Losses

Meanwhile, the nation's 2,950 savings and loans likely will show record losses this year topping \$10 billion. The Federal Home Loan Bank board reports later this month on that industry's performance for 1988.

Savings and loans, also known as thrifts, make personal and mortgage loans, while commercial banks primarily make business loans.

The big international banks in the fourth quarter began recording interest income on loans to Brazil, which ended an interest moratorium earlier in the year. Also, the big loss posted by First Republicbank Corp. of Dallas was excluded from the industry's year-end results because it was closed by regulators and reopened under a new owner. Those two factors alone pumped up 1988 earnings by more than \$4 billion.

Seidman, whose agency insures deposits up to \$100,000, chided bankers for boosting dividends to stockholders by 24 per cent to \$13 billion.

"That amount represents 52 per cent of the year's earnings. A more conservative approach would have provided a greater capital base to improve 1989 earnings," he said.

Ironically, last year's bank deposits were earned while an all-time high of 221 banks failed — four-fifths of them in the energy producing states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Colorado.

"The good news is that we see fewer bank failures in 1989 and beyond," Seidman said. Thirty banks have failed so far this year, compared with 44 during the same period last year.



The House of Hermes Paris opened its first store in Houston on Monday. Hermes chairman Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermes (left), Paris, was welcomed to Houston by Stanley Marcus (right), founder of famed store Neiman Marcus. Dumas-Hermes is fifth generation descendant of Thierry Hermes, who founded the Paris company in 1837. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hermes opens eighth store in US

HOUSTON, March 14, (UPI): Hermes of Paris, the exclusive French retail chain known for its silk scarves and ties and leather goods, opened its eighth flagship store in the United States yesterday near the Houston Galleria.

The store is the second for Hermes in Texas — they moved into Dallas in late 1985. Hermes has flagship stores in New York, San Francisco, Beverly Hills, California, Palm Beach, Florida, Chicago and Boston.

Hermes also has smaller boutiques, or shops within a shop, in six other US cities and one in Toronto.

Hermes, founded in 1837, gained its reputation for hand-made leather products, particularly saddles.

Hermes chairman Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermes, a fifth generation descendant of Thierry Hermes, who founded the company, came to Houston for the opening.

"Our decision to open our own store in Houston stemmed first from the repeated requests of

customers, and would-be customers, in the Greater Houston area for a full assortment of Hermes designs," said Chrys Fisher, president of Hermes of Paris Inc., the North American division of the company.

The Houston Store covers 3,500 square feet (3,200 sq m) and carries the full range of Hermes Paris-designed products, including women's apparel and accessories, men's clothing and furnishings, luggage and leather goods, home furnishings, Hermes fragrances and bath products for men and women, and a complete equestrian department providing saddles, tack, hardware and special clothing.

Hermes is not new to the Houston area. Stanley Marcus, of Neiman Marcus, established a close relationship with Hermes in 1952 and began importing Hermes goods to all the Neiman-Marcus Stores. In Houston, Hermes goods have been available since the early 1960s.

East German economy slowing down

LEIPZIG, East Germany, March 14, (AP): Twice a year East Germany welcomes thousands of capitalists from around the world to the sprawling Leipzig trade fair.

But visiting trade officials say the most efficient economy in Eastern Europe remains largely closed to most foreign investment and appears to be slowing down, despite expressed interest in new trade links with the West.

The trade officials also say that East Germany is still far from embracing the reforms needed to encourage joint ventures with Western countries.

"The East Germans continue to reject joint venture proposals," said a member of the US trade delegation who visited Leipzig for the weeklong fair, which opened on Sunday.

"They are afraid that once the West and especially West Germany gets a foot in the door that they'll buy the whole place up," said the official.

Condition

He spoke to the Associated Press on the condition he not be further identified.

West Germany is East Germany's largest Western trading partner, accounting for 64 per cent of its trade with the West. The Soviet Union is East Germany's largest trading partner.

West Germany is also a key source of hard currency for East Germany, which needs convertible currency to buy Western-made goods and equipment to modernise its industries.

But there are signs that the East German economy, long fuelled by West German financial help, is beginning to show some sluggishness. According to the West German economics ministry, trade between

US-Canada trade pact could accelerate tariff cuts

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): Implementation of the US-Canada free trade agreement is going so well that countries will likely accelerate tariff reductions, top trade officials said today.

Both US trade representative Carla Hills and Canadian Trade Minister John Crosbie said they planned to begin reviewing requests to speed up the removal of tariffs on certain products.

Hills said that there was "tremendous interest" on the part of US companies to lower tariff barriers early. The historic free trade agreement, which took effect on Jan 1, calls for the gradual phase-out of all tariff barriers and most non-tariff barriers between the two countries over the next 10 years.

While the trade pact spelled out the cuts to be made each year in tariffs on particular products, it provided for an acceleration of that timetable if both countries agreed.

Crosbie predicted that faster tariff reductions could take effect starting next Jan 1 if upcoming negotiations are successful.

Hills said that her office already had received 200

requests for accelerated tariff reductions on 2,000 items.

Peter Murphy, the senior American negotiator on the free trade agreement, said steel, textiles, chemicals, "anything you can think of," could be included in the accelerated tariff reduction schedule.

Hills and Crosbie spoke to reporters following conclusion of the first meeting of the US-Canada trade commission, which has given the duty under the free trade agreement of trying to resolve disputes arising out of implementation of the accord.

Hills termed the first session "very, very productive," referring in particular to the progress made in setting up a review procedure for reductions in Tariffs.

About 70 per cent of the \$155 billion in trade between the United States and Canada is already duty-free. The free trade agreement, which won approval in Congress and the Canadian Parliament last year, is expected to reduce the cost of doing business in both countries, helping to spur productivity.

New aid package for Egypt

BONN, West Germany, March 14, (AP): West Germany announced today it would provide 268 million marks (\$144 million) in development aid to Egypt this year.

Hans Klein, Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation, told visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak the aid package is a further sign of West Germany's "readiness to support the economic development" of Egypt, Klein's office said.

West Germany has provided about 5 billion marks (\$2.7 billion) in development aid to Egypt over the past 10 years, Klein's office said in a statement. The new assistance will be used for water purification projects, increasing productivity in

agriculture and industry, construction, and for training engineers, the statement said.

Mubarak is on a five-day visit to West Germany.

Along with economic matters, he has also been discussing the Middle East conflict with East German leaders.

Today, West German President Richard von Weizsaecker met with Mubarak and repeated his country's support for an international peace conference to resolve Middle East tensions.

Mubarak is scheduled to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl tomorrow, before travelling on to Berlin and Munich to complete his West German visit.

Non-OPEC to cut oil exports

VIENNA, March 14, (UPI): A group of oil producer countries that do not belong to OPEC have agreed to reduce their oil exports by nearly 300,000 barrels a day in the second quarter, the OPEC News Agency (OPECNA) reported today.

A group of non-OPEC producers reached an accord in London last month to cut or freeze oil exports in a bid to help the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries raise world oil prices to its official \$18-a-barrel target.

Oil prices now are hovering in the \$15- to 17-a-barrel range following OPEC's decision to reduce its production by about 4 million barrels to 18.5 million barrels a day for the first half of 1989.

OPECNA said OPEC has "firm assurances" that non-OPEC exports will be trimmed by 291,255 barrels a day in the

April-June quarter, with the largest cut contributed by the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer.

China will lower its oil exports by 31,800 barrels a day in the second quarter, the news agency said.

OPEC said the Soviet Union will cut back its exports by 100,000 barrels a day, Mexico by 68,600 barrels a day, Oman 27,750 barrels a day, Egypt 24,000 barrels a day, Angola 17,245 barrels a day, and Colombia will freeze its net exports in the second quarter at 191,500 barrels a day and North Yemen at 190,000 barrels a day.

OPECNA said:

"We welcome these developments as we believe that they bring the \$18 OPEC oil price target all that closer," OPEC Secretary-General Subroto told the news agency.

the two countries dropped last year and appears headed for an extended period of stagnation.

The signs of a slowdown are attributed, in part, to fewer East German goods being made available for sale to the West.

"The Soviet Union is now demanding better products from East Germany at a time when increased exports to the West are needed to earn vital hard currency," another US trade official noted.

"All this has to be done while still trying to provide quality goods to its national consumers."

Pressures

East German economists admit privately that the economy is facing growing pressures.

"The days of the guaranteed 'brotherhood' trade agreements (with other communist countries) are passing," said an East German government official, referring to special trade agreements among Warsaw Pact nations.

The government official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that the Soviet Union is pressing for delivery of more top-rate goods, thus reducing East Germany's potential hard currency trading stocks with the West.

Another senior government official admitted that East Germany's industrial base, once highly competitive in the early 1970s, is rapidly becoming obsolete and less competitive.

"Our industrial infrastructure ... has now outlived its usefulness, the official said.

Modernisation has lagged in part because the bulk of the nation's high-grade machinery goods is exported rather than put to use at East German factories.

VIDEO CORNER

All is not what it seems to be

By Shaun Seekins

IN *My Stepmother* is an Allen Dan Aykroyd plays a somewhat nerdy astro-scientist who seems to have been born under a lucky star. The story starts when the astro-scientist is fired from his job after transmitting an overamplified Klystron beam that destroys the research facility where he works. Unfortunately, the beam threatens to destroy a world which exists some 92 light years away from earth, as they say "it's an ill wind" because this civilisation sends their chief extragalactic probist to get him to reproduce his experiment and she just happens to look like Kim Basinger.

Celeste (Basinger) does her best to get close to Steve (Aykroyd) who is intrigued by her out-of-this-world behaviour, to the point of falling in love and proposing marriage. She agrees to the marriage, ostensibly to forestall out information she thinks he is keeping to himself. All goes smoothly until Steve's daughter Jessie (Alyson Hannigan) surprises her stepmother and catches her eating batteries and handling dishes straight from the oven without a wince. She starts to suspect all is not what it seems.



Jessie (Alyson Hannigan) calls her father: 'Dad! The house is on fire.' But as she turns, the Evil Bag confronts her in 'My Stepmother' is an Alien.

Steve is convinced that his wife comes from "over there" as opposed to "out there". When she states that she hails from the "Netherlands", he replies "Ah... Dutch." Despite Jessie's warnings he persists in thinking that "Ok, she's different, but she'll learn." While Celeste has a warm spot in her alien heart for Steve, her sidekick — a talking eyeball named Bag (because he lives in a magic handbag) — reckons on Jessie being a threat to their mission.

so when Jessie sees Bag talking to Celeste in the kitchen, she phones her father to say "hurry home, because the house is on fire." Bag doesn't like this at all and promptly puts Jessie on the ceiling. Celeste is forced to convince Bag that their mission will be compromised if anything happens to Jessie so it all ends happily, but there is much more.

Super special effects, some very good comic moments and excellent performances by a

strong cast make this the film of the week.

Glitch is not the same level but if it's beautiful girls you're looking for, then it's for you. The glitch referred to in the title is when a bevy of aspiring actresses arrive at the home of a second rate movie producer for auditions. They should have gone to his office, but due to a mix-up they arrive at his house instead. They're greeted by a couple of chaps, who, in fact, dropped in to burgle the place.

They see plenty of opportunity to benefit from the situation, so they drop their identities and become Hollywood personalities.

Clara's Heart is a good new drama starring Whoopi Goldberg. She plays Clara, a Jamaican woman who is brought to an idyllic estate near Baltimore by a mother distraught over the death of her baby girl. Because of her grief she neglects her other child and although at first reluctant to make friends with Clara, the boy (Neil Patrick Harris) soon grows to love her and prefers her to his parents. The film has done very well in the States on a limited release and shows that fine performances can make a film seem much better than it really is. A slow film but one that is worth the effort to watch.

Other new releases includes *The Sex Tapes Scandal*, *Final Score*, *Babycakes* and *Amsterdam*. The long distance *Stam-Dunk* championships and Rugby International England vs France are available.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya, Video Naaf, Saliha, Tel: 2432809; and Video Club, Saliha, Tel: 5724372.

The town crier sayeth
O Yeh, O Yeh, O Yeh!!

"O Yeh, O Yeh, O Yeh, I am commanded with the authority vested in me as official Town Crier and through the courtesy of the Kuwait International Hotel to bring greetings from the citizens of the United Kingdom to the citizens of the State of Kuwait. God save the Queen!" announces 76-year-old Alfie Howard currently in Kuwait to promote the British atmosphere to mark the visit of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Alfie Howard has a very unusual profession. He is England's oldest town crier both in terms of service and age. Having 42 years of service to his credit, Alfie is the fifth-generation town crier from his family. Soon his grandson will be taking it up too. He is the official town crier for the government of Great Britain in 61 countries. In 37 years he made 78 trips to the United States alone. He was the official town crier at the Tokyo Olympics. He led the British athletes in the 1978 Commonwealth Games and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1977 for Service to Great Britain.

When asked about how this profession got into the family, Alfie says that one of his ancestors was a Councillor where the old town crier died. A competition was called. He won and that is how it all began.

Colourful

Alfie's uniform is a wonder — an exact replica of the town crier's uniform of the 17th century copied from the archives of London. It displays 2000 hours of colourful, meticulous hand embroidery — all made by Alfie himself! The official bell

weighs 16 pounds and is 300 years old!

It is believed that the concept of a town crier began in the 10th century. The reason being that the opening words, "O Yeh, O Yeh, O Yeh" is Norman French for "Attention, Attention, Attention" dating from that period. The message could be anything but it always has the same beginning and ending which is — God save the Queen. Even though the concept of the town crier existed in the 10th century the first official appointment was in 1117 in the town of Holsworthy in Devon, West England. In days of yore when printing, communication and transportation hardly existed the town crier used to be the "walking newspaper" repeating laws, statutes, royal proclamations and news of international importance.

Being a town crier is indeed an unusual and novel profession and its popularity is on the increase says Alfie Howard. Ten years ago there were only 28 town criers in England and now there are 46 (21 in London). Ten years ago there were none in Canada and the United States but now there are several in both countries. The forthcoming world championship is in June of this year in Belgium with 79 participants from Europe, Canada and the United States.

During the next few days, Alfie could be spotted anywhere in the city from schools to department stores, downtown Kuwait and certainly in the lobby of restaurants of the Kuwait International Hotel. Alfie says that his uniform evolves curiosity in people.



Alfie greets Prince Charles.



His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was welcomed to the Kuwait International Hotel by its General Manager Herman Simon. Prince Charles was at the hotel to visit the British Higher Education Exhibition.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Saliha Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits

include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

CINEMA

British Council
March 18/19 (6.30 pm): A feature film Brazil will be shown at the British Council. When Sam Lowry first sees Jill Layton he does not realise the complications she will bring into his life. A spoof on George Orwell's 1984. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

MUSIC

Jukebox 5
MARCH 18 (7 pm): Auditions for singers and dancers for the Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5 at Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston with June Woolston and Phil Thomas as music directors.

Nacsh Hameed will choreograph the show. Dancers should bring their dance gear with them. Performances will be on May 15 and 18. For details ring 5740256 or 5625316.

Children's Dance Recital
MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2, are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Beat Concert

MARCH 31: Vishal Arts present a beat concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the group will present a variety show with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

THEATRE

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chailot", directed by George Plautz, at Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya. Reduced ticket price for opening night. For reservations call 5731762 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karutha Paumami" at Indian Arts Circle. Written and directed by Nandan Iringalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

Higher Education in Britain
UNTIL March 15: Higher Education in Britain at Kuwait International Hotel features all aspects of higher education in the UK. British Council staff and visiting representatives from Scottish universities will

give advice.

Far East Exhibition
TRADITIONAL rosewood furniture, silk and woollen carpets, decorative arts and handicrafts are on show at the exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel. Open throughout the day, until March 16.

Silk Painting Exhibition
MARCH 21-23 (5-9 pm): Ladies from the German-speaking cultural association will hold a silk painting exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka room. Exhibits include Arab scenes, art nouveau and other subjects as well as cushions, scarves, brooches and a small Easter bazaar. All are welcome.

SOCIAL

Get-together and musical
MARCH 16 (8 pm): A get-together with music and dinner, will be held at Sheraton Hotel. "Bops till you Drop" music, from 1930s to 1980s, featuring Karl and Christine Anderson with the Top Ranks band. For invitations contact 4834938.

Easter Dance
MARCH 21 (8 pm): Jukebox Band will hold a pre-Easter dance at Messilah Beach Hotel. Those interested in attending please contact Phil Thomas on 5387998 after 5 pm.

Community Festival
MARCH 31: 4.30 pm. Thapasya, an Indian group,

will hold a community festival featuring folk dances at Masela Family Beach. Entrance: 500 fils (adults); 250 fils (children).

Jewellery-making
ERICA Leiner will hold jewellery-making classes at the Kuwait Cultural Centre. For details call 5624393.

Southerners get-together
MARCH 31: The Southerners will hold a get-together at Carlton Towers Hotel from 10 am to 4 pm. Next of Kin will provide musical entertainment. For details ring 2425705 or 4831484.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait Plaza
AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.

Lolouwah Corner: open from 4 to 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Al Jazir Min Hanan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashid, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Tall.
11.00 Baqaya Wajoo: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Haifa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar.
12.00 International Circus
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 The Adventures of Nelly: cartoon serial
5.15 Laila Min Alf Laila

5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial starring Majed Afroun, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown.
6.15 With Students
7.00 News Summary
7.30 Cultural Film
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Loolu wa Asdaaf: Arabic serial
10.45 Aghniyat fi Tamaniyat: singers Ali Abdul Sattar and Khalid Al Sheikh will be featured.
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial

6.30 Prestige: "The Seven Wishes of a Rich Kid".
7.25 Mutual of Omaha: "Wildlife in Zimbababwe".
7.50 You and the Law
8.00 News in English
8.55 The Law and Harry McGraw
9.40 Hooperman: drug peddling is the theme of tonight's episode.
10.10 Just for Laughs: comedy.
10.30 Feature film: "Mask". Starring: Cher, Sam Elliott, Eric Stolze.
12.35 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newsdesk
30 Oasis
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 How It All Began
45 Country Style
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Health Matters
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News About Britain
15 The World Today
30 Discovery
0400 Newsdesk
30 Business Matters
45 Country Style
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News
40 Words of Faith
45 The World Today
0600 Newsdesk
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '89
15 The World Today
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 Business Matters
30 Screenplay
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 How It All Began
1000 News Summary followed by Oasis
30 Jazz for the Aaking

1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Country Style
30 Meridian
1200 Newsdesk
15 They Made Our World
25 The Farming World
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '89
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Business Matters
1500 Newsdesk
15 The Learning World
30 8th King St Junior: 15th and 22nd After Henry: 29th Two Cheers for March
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The Bee's Lost Beatles Tapes
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Society Today
30 New Ideas
40 Book Choice
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 Multitrack 2
1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 Network UK
45 How It All Began
2000 World News
09 The World Today
25 Words of Faith
30 Assignment
2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
15 The Bee's Lost Beatles Tapes (ex 8th Sportsworld 'd)
2200 Newsdesk

2300 World News
09 Sportsworld Extra (ex 8th and 11th)

English

MORNING
0800 Open
0802 Songs and Music
0805 Writers and Poets in Arabic Literature
0830 News in English
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Golden Collection
0930 Album Tracks
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 Music with a Theme
1100 Closedown
EVENING
2100 Opening
2102 Pop Science
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2215 Musical Celebrities
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Soul with a Beat
2330 Choice of the Week
2400 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening/Holy Quran
1910 Behereen Qaul
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Subah-e-Nus
2000 News in Urdu
2020 Songs
2040 Hidayate Rabbani
2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Algiers St.
Al Mojil Pharmacy
Mojil Bldg. Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hadiha Pharmacy
Ibn Khaldoun St.
Salmiya and Rmaitiya
Al Randha Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahabehel and Ahmadi
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Rabe'a Bldg. Mujammah St.
Jeeb Al Shiyoookh
Al Salamah Pharmacy
Qitah 2, Main St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New commercial market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Nigo
Starring: Steve Segal
Al Salmiya
Three Men and a Baby
Starring: Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg
Al Hamra
Volunteers
Starring: Tom Hanks, John Kennedy
Drive-In
Al Khademah (Arabic)
Starring: Nadia Jundi, Mamdouh Abdul Aleem
Al Firdous
Surya (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Bhanu Priya, Raj Kumar, Amrish Puri
Granada
Gharraam Al Afa'ai (Arabic)

Fahabehel Open-Air
Shankar Dada (Hindi)
Al Fahabehel
Shaitan Yaghna (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Siege
Salsabikhat
Raiders for Victory
Al Jeeb
August 1 (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Mo'arakah Al Naqib
Nadiya (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.38 am
Zuhr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.57
Isha	7.13

introduced by Chef Von Kwee Kiong.

The Clock Drive-In restaurant serves fast foods and daily specials.

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic Eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharbian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supper club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At the Continental
GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Darbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meridian
MARCH 15: A touch of Greece at La Brasserie. Greek food buffet, bazoorka sound and ambience at Greek festival.

Every Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; seafood buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the SAS
BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by chef Peter D. Zobrist.

Al Boom: the floating restaurant will offer a different speciality every two days as well as the Al Boom menu of charcoal grills.

Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine

Fun Run
MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams at Messilah Beach

Danish Darts Tournament
MARCH 17: Daniella invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette — 3723413; Ingleise 3715637.

Volleyball Tournament
MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem — 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm). Last date for registration is March 15.

Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Jon Evans — 5339867.

Laser Sailing
MARCH 17: Messilah Beach Laser Club's spring series will be held. Briefing at 10 am. All are welcome. For details contact David Clark — 4845171 (W); 2425947 (H); or Philip Shepherd — 4841513 (W); 5314957 (H).

Keep-Fit Classes
AT Holiday Inn: Mondays (6-7 pm) separate ladies and men's keep fit classes; Saturdays (5-6 pm) ladies aerobics; (6-7 pm) mixed aerobics. Sundays: 5.30 pm. Squash handicap tournament. Contact the Holiday Inn for details.

At Kuwait International Hotel: Aerobics for ladies from 6 to 7 pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming starts March 6-22, Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall.

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MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem — 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm). Last date for registration is March 15.

By Kathy Cuddihy

NOT too long ago, a magazine headline caught my eye: London's Top Restaurants Are Bugged. Heavens, I thought (with relish), what a scandal. The repercussions could be devastating.

I quickly thumbed through the pages to find the related article. To my mild disappointment, it turned out to be called "The Million Bug Meal." The author was highlighting a lack of kitchen hygiene, not a surfeit of hidden recording devices at diners' tables. What a pity. Nevertheless, I read on. After all, something mundane like salmonella poisoning would possibly affect me more directly than the juicy revelation of state secrets.

After a few diligent food inspectors squeaked their findings to the media, some independent analyses were undertaken. They found that such illustrious places as Le Gavroche serve dishes which are "swamped" with bacteria. Perhaps these unseen additives are what forces the price up to astronomical levels. Heaven only knows, at 50 pounds per person for the a la carte menu, I'll take any extras the chef wishes to throw in... as long as I live to make a return visit.

By contrast, to my

Going buggy

immense dismay, certain fast-food chains, such as McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken, have virtually negligible bacteria counts. Needless to say, I won't pass this information on to my children because they'll argue that we should eat there all the time. I mean, bang goes my credibility on what is junk food and what isn't.

The inspired chef Matthew Fort summed up the situation nicely when he commented, "There is not necessarily a link between food and hygiene. Indeed, if you take McDonald's as the standard, you could say the reverse is true." My sentiments exactly.

Although I wasn't too enthralled to read about sloppy hygiene in the famous kitchens, I was even less delighted to learn how food becomes contaminated. Too many of the flaws were reminiscent of procedures in my own kitchen.

For instance, the article warns against using the same knife on two separate foods without washing it between uses. I agree wholeheartedly with the theory but, since I don't have the luxury of a flock of sous-chefs at my beck and call, I would probably have

to spend a good portion of my time washing knives. Anything that prolongs my presence in the kitchen loses my vote, no matter how hygienic it might be.

The alternative, obviously, is to possess enough suitable knives to handle all the various jobs without having to stop and wash them on a frequent basis. This solution, however, creates a problem of its own: where do I put such a collection when it is not in use? Right now my drawers are crammed with all the latest (and oldest) kitchen gadgets, not to mention bits of string, papers, pencil stubs and other inevitabilities of a normal kitchen. I could resort to the countertops but that would further limit already limited space, generating yet more complications.

Another sanitary no-no is the preparation of raw and cooked foods in the same area. That's all fine and dandy in kitchens which are big enough — and organized enough — to allocate specialized spaces, but my kitchen is just your average, everyday pit where I'm lucky to find any clear countertops, let alone several. True, I could improve

the situation by clearing away yesterday's dirty dishes, putting away last week's groceries and throwing away the mouldy fruit and bread which has taken on a life of its own. Until the food inspectors threaten to close me down, however, I don't think I'm really prepared to take such drastic action. On the other hand, being forbidden to serve food might have some definite advantages.

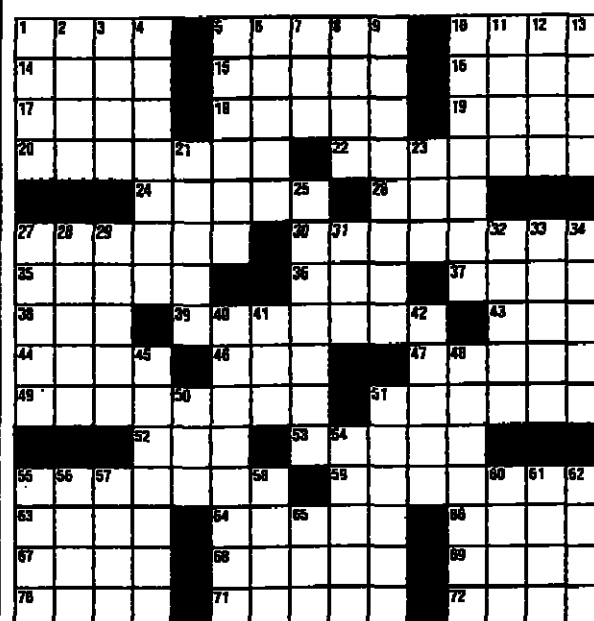
One thing all this restaurant publicity has done is give me confidence about my cooking. When I view my sanitary slip-ups, I can tell myself I'm in a class with the best.

While my kitchen may waver between chaos and benign neglect, at least it is basically clean. Or so I believe. A wag once observed, though, "in kitchens, as in journalism, if you really look hard for the dirt you will find it."

Perhaps he's right, but there are certainly no cockroaches, mice, or any other forms of live protein to support the supposition. This could mean that they're discerning enough to want to hang out in kitchens with more exciting menus.

Or that they have higher hygiene standards than we think... and, like my children would if I let them, manage to survive quite happily on bland but safe Big Macs.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Namesakes of a Stowe character
 - Make amends
 - Sign of sorrow
 - Soccer superstar
 - Two-legged animal
 - Encourage
 - Persian Gulf country
 - Metric measure
 - 19th cen. Canadian rebel
 - Chewy candy
 - Wild asses
 - Sobered the sound, with "down"
 - Three: Prefix
 - Confront boldly
 - Not on duty
 - Divide
 - Eng. —
 - Home of leprechauns
 - Letter recipient, often
 - Having leafy divisions
 - Time zone abbr
 - Son of Seth
 - Medic for Fido
 - Reverend, in
 - Fluents
 - Metal pattern for machinery
 - Kind of algebra
 - Charged atom
 - Traded with
 - Perfumed
 - Silents
 - Refuse to release
 - Colleges
 - Merry old monarch
 - Type of exam
 - Australian bird or call
 - Leisure
 - "Canvas" for Jack Frost
 - Arabian rulers
 - Counterfeit
- DOWN**
- Poetic composition
 - Actress Miles
 - Having wings
 - Bradley or Bentzen
 - Part of AWOL
 - Honoric
 - Unloof, to Byron
 - Panist Peter
 - Toothless
 - Iron ore
 - Buffalo's lake
 - Ripening agent
 - Bro. and sis
 - Artistic
 - Grandma
 - Relief org.
 - Increased in size
 - Valuable
 - possession
 - Creme de —
 - Billiards shot
 - Nothing at all
 - Acress Pappas
 - Field of view
 - Stage direction
 - Vanish like vapor
 - Family favorite
 - Fire call exercise
 - Spinning wheel adjunct
 - 48 Tempts
 - Sodom citizen
 - Trivial errors
 - Chemical compound
 - Business establishment
 - J.F. Cooper heroine
 - Verve
 - Condemn
 - Biblical sailor
 - Actress
 - Lanchester
 - Appear
 - "Vive le —"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

APPEARANCES ARE DECEPTIVE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 9 7 5 4 3
 ♣ 9 7 6 3 2

EAST
 ♠ 8 7 6 4 3 2
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ K J 10
 ♣ Q J 10

SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ K J 10
 ♦ A 8 2
 ♣ A K 8

The bidding:
 West North East South
 3♥ Pass Pass 3NT
 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♣
 A few years ago, we came across a most charming bridge book, *A Christmas Stocking*, by Frank Stewart. (Available from Stocking, P.O. Box 18099, Memphis, Tenn. 38181-0099, \$8 postpaid.) To make it a personal gift, the author will autograph or inscribe the book on request.

On this hand, one of the characters, Lance, was defending against three no trump with the West cards. He led a heart to declarer's ten, and back came the queen of spades to the ace.

"I played low, a bad mistake as you will see. Declarer then cashed his two top clubs and threw me in with the king of spades. It was then I

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
 PIP ORRITIE FIAN
 OIOLA HERIN HILL
 ONARONA AND JONAH
 LATERAL OPEN
 NAT ISERE
 TINAL ENA AND DINA
 ETO LINTOA LOG
 SIT SOV AWA OMA
 TOO AMER NAN
 ANNALANA AND HANA
 CANST IRA
 WORD ABETTED
 GIGIEGAND BEEGEE
 USED IDEAL SIRE
 NEE NOOSE FOR

realized that I should have covered the queen of spades with my king even though dummy had the stiff ace!

"You can see what I had done to myself. Another heart lead now, besides losing a trick, puts me out of touch with partner's hand; and if I lead a diamond, declarer can always set up the suit without letting (partner) in. If I still had the five of spades, I could exit safely. Declarer would have only eight tricks, and Millard is bound to get in to lead a heart through."

"I actually led the jack of diamonds, hoping (partner) had the ace. Declarer ducked in dummy and was all set to duck in hand, too... But (partner) played the king... I don't know what made him do it, maybe 'cover partner's honor with an honor' Who knows? Declarer didn't give either one of us much credit—he won the ace and led a diamond to the nine."

"Down four. Another top."

A book to warm the cockles of your heart any time of the year.



Does the world ever see the real you?

By Jo Mears

ARE you the sort of person who buttons your lip no matter whether you feel happy, sad or frightened? Can people really tell what you are feeling, or is your appearance deceiving?

Or are you the sort of person who makes a drama out of everything? The moody type who is always complaining of ups and downs and bursting into tears?

Our quiz will make clear just how much of yourself you reveal to the outside world.

- Your partner has forgotten your birthday and you are livid. Do you:
 - Pretend nothing is wrong but feel hurt inside?
 - Behave as normal but burn the dinner on purpose?
 - Fly off the handle and threaten them with the breadknife?

- You want to tell your latest companion that you have fallen in love with them. Do you:
 - Send them a cryptic postcard and suggest you love them without coming straight out with it?
 - Set the scene with a meal and music and then pour your heart out?
 - Grab them in a clinch while out shopping and profess mad, undying love?

- You see your partner chatting up someone else at a party. Do you:
 - Pretend you haven't noticed but see secretly inside?
 - Think two can play at that game and find yourself an attractive person to flirt with?
 - Pour a glass of orange juice over them both and rush off in tears?

- You are disappointed to find you haven't got that new job you were counting on. Do you:
 - Feel sad but remind yourself of all the bad points of the job?
 - Burst into tears and phone them demanding they employ you?
 - Act as though you never wanted the job anyway?

- Your best friend phones you at the last moment to cancel a longed for weekend away. Do you:
 - Tell them they are a selfish pig and slam down the phone?
 - Let them know you're upset but say you'll forgive them just this once?
 - Seem understanding but decide never to do them a favour again?

- You are feeling bad when an acquaintance asks how you are. Do you:
 - Automatically reply "I'm fine" without even thinking?

Add up your score

	A	B	C
1.	5	15	10
2.	5	15	10
3.	5	15	10
4.	15	10	5
5.	10	15	5
6.	5	15	10
7.	5	15	10
8.	5	10	15
9.	5	10	15
10.	15	10	5
11.	5	15	10
12.	10	15	5
13.	10	5	15
14.	5	10	15
15.	10	15	5

Are you ruled by your head or by your emotions? Do you stay cool and calm all the time — or scream and smash plates when you are angry? Our fun quiz will show just how much emotion you show — or how little...



Weekly quiz

- Say you are all right when you really mean you're not?
- Admit you're feeling dreadful and list all your complaints from your headache to your in-grown toenails?
- You unwrap a special gift from your mother and you hate it. Do you:
 - Say you love it and ask how

- she knew what you wanted?
- Say thanks but ask later if she still has the receipt?
- Drop it on the floor in complete horror?
- Your latest flame seems to be avoiding you. Do you:
 - Pretend that nothing is wrong but wonder why you have taken up smoking again?

What your score means

0-74: It is impossible to tell what you are really thinking and feeling. You never let out an ounce of emotion. That's not to say you don't feel — you are just an expert at keeping it under wraps. Perhaps you should try to loosen up a little because too much control makes life boring.

75-149: You know exactly how to keep your mind and your emotions in harmony. You let yourself go sometimes — you can turn on the waterworks and throw a few plates, but only when you are really driven to it. It is usually just your nearest and dearest who are allowed to see the real you.

149-225: The trouble with you is that you let your heart rule your head. You show your feelings too much and go around creating scenes and upsetting people. If you kept your emotions a bit more in check you wouldn't have to spend so much time apologising.

- Chain yourself to the railings outside their house until they promise to marry you?
- Hire a model and be seen with them at your flame's favourite nightclub?
- Builders working on a neighbour's house ask if they can knock down your attic wall. Do you:
 - Let them in grudgingly and convince yourself that they know what they are doing?
 - Jam their feet in the door and tell them to get lost?
 - Say politely and calmly that you would like a full report before they go any further?

- You arrive ravenous at a party and discover food is not provided. Do you:
 - Say you've left something in the car and nip to the nearest takeaway?
 - Tell them you're famished and demand some bread?
 - Tell them you've eaten even though your rumbling stomach gives you away?

- You've had a bad day at work and to top it all your boss shouts at you. Do you:
 - Hold back the tears and act cool, knowing that's the best way to get the better of them?
 - Burst into tears and hope for sympathy?
 - Crash your things down and rush out slamming the door?

- You are watching something frightening on the TV with a group of friends. Do you:
 - Let yourself go and scream out loud?
 - Talk all the way through so you don't get too scared?
 - Go and make something to eat in the kitchen so you can avoid it all together?

- You fall over in a crowded street and hurt yourself. Do you:
 - Cry out in pain and lie there until a passerby helps you to your feet?
 - Get up again quickly and hope no-one noticed?
 - Get up laughing self-consciously and assure everyone you are OK?

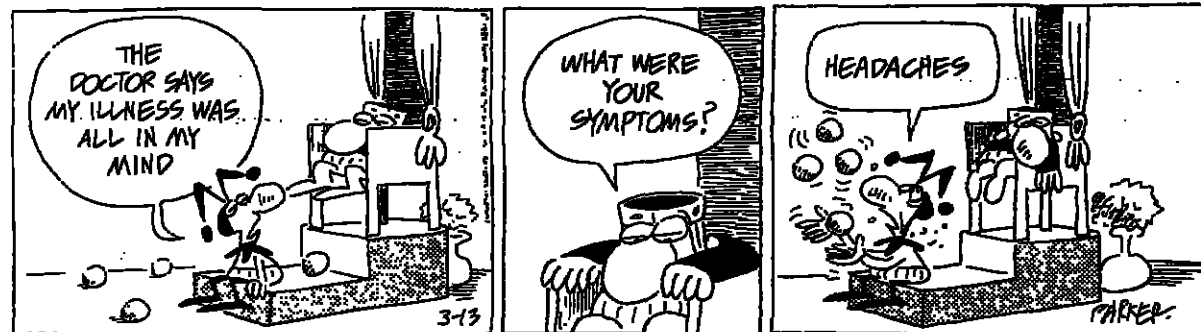
- You see someone you dislike walking towards you in the street. Do you:
 - Quickly nip into the nearest shop and hope they don't notice?
 - Walk right past them with your nose in the air?
 - Greet them in a friendly manner and stick your tongue out afterwards?

- You are extremely excited about a forthcoming holiday. Do you:
 - Corner everyone you know and bore them rigid with your travel plans?
 - Tell just your closest friends but try not to get carried away?
 - Mention it to no-one. You don't want to think about it in case something goes wrong?

- Now add up your score as follows:

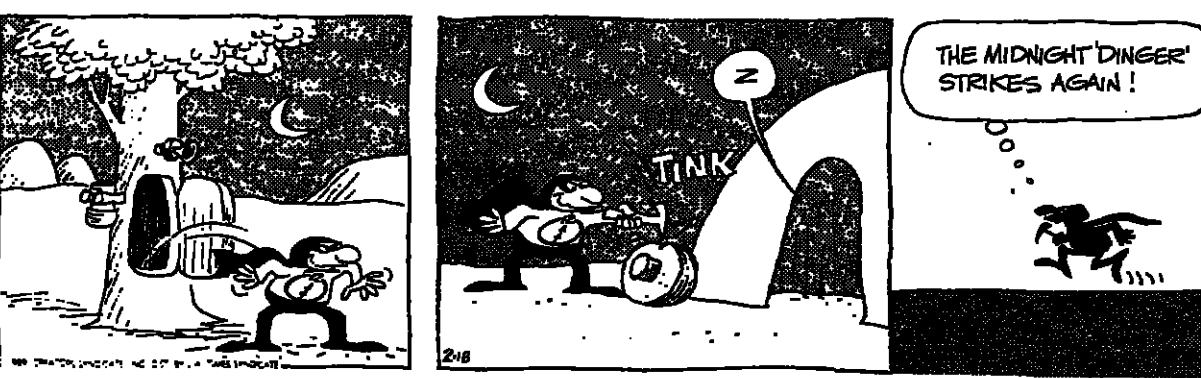
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The Moon's influence will tend to make you feel a little more gloomy. There will tend to be some confusion and you should do your best to clarify matters. Do not act on the spur of the moment. Be frank.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Make sure you have some spare light bulbs in the house. Do not allow your attention to stray from the subject at hand. You should try to do something a little more constructive. Be dependable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should work hard but try not to take work home with you. You should have a little more faith in yourself. You will be able to get to the bottom of an error you have persistently been making. Be fair.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Remember there is no point in becoming annoyed with yourself: keep calm and try to make things better. The Moon's influence will stimulate your imaginative powers, but you should not place too much reliance on your intuition. Think a little longer before you act.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will tend to mistake what you would like to be for what is. You should leave yourself with enough time for your personal affairs. Make sure you do not spend money as if you were affluent if you are not. Be moderate.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to make up for lost time and should do so. Do not think that time spent relaxing is a waste of time. Ensure that you take a little regular exercise. Be courteous.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will find it a little hard to choose between alternatives, but you must do so. You will be proved right but should not make too big an issue of it. Mars' influence will help you to avoid falling into a trap. Be sensible.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will have to deal with someone who has got hold of the wrong end of the stick. You will be better able to achieve harmony within your family. Make sure you eat a balanced diet. Be sincere.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will have to work hard in order to remain on harmonious terms with your partner. Do not expect to have the last word or to have your own way in all things. Do not give up at the slightest obstacle. Be grateful.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will be in a better mood and you will have a bright idea or two. You should not allow work to encroach upon your private time nor should you leave more than you need to chance. Take good care of your personal hygiene. Be polite.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Someone who has not been pleasant to you will see others getting their own back on him. No need for you to rub it in. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Be frugal.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to preserve your inner peace of mind in a tense situation. You must make sure you do not leave anything accessible to pickpockets. Avoid making a mountain out of a molehill and do not otherwise exaggerate. Be patient.

مكتبة

When was the last time you had a medical check-up?

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI): Millions of people go to the doctor every year to have their pulse checked, hearts listened to, temperatures taken and to undergo a host of other familiar tests.

But a new study has called into question the usefulness of most of the poking, prodding and testing involved in the standard annual physical examination — one of the most enduring staples in medicine.

Dr Sylvia Oboler of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Dr F. Marc Laforce of the University of Rochester School of Medicine used a computer to search through the medical literature to find out if there is any scientific evidence supporting the usefulness of such tests for adults with no symptoms.

In most cases, the pair found little, if any, evidence to support most of them.

"It has been taken as dogma for many years that many of these things are good," said Laforce, whose findings were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

"Yet when one looks at the data, it turns out that it is not necessary," Laforce said in an interview. "We found no evidence whatsoever that many procedures are of any use at all."

There is virtually no evidence, for example, that diseases are usually detected by having your pulse rate checked or temperature taken — two basic tests that are part of any routine physical and are still taught in medical schools, Laforce said.

Based on their findings the researchers issued a set of recommendations for the tests they say there is enough evidence to support doing on a routine basis.

- Men 20 and older should have their blood pressure measured every two years, weight measured every four years, teeth examined annually and have their hearts checked for heart disease and their skin checked for abnormal growths once, the pair recommended.

- Men older than 60 should also have their eyes and hearing checked annually and undergo a yearly exam to check for heart artery aneurysms.

Tested

- Women age 20 and older should have their blood pressure tested every two years and their weight measured every four years. They should also have their teeth checked yearly and have their hearts checked for heart disease and skin checked for growths, the pair said. These women should also get a PAP smear every three years.

- Women age 40 and over should have their eyes and hearing checked annually, the researchers recommended.

Laforce blamed habit for many of the other tests remaining part of the standard battery of tests administered during a physical.

"It's been a standard part of medical lore for many, many, many years. And as in anything out of lore, these are accepted out of habit," he said.

But he suggested doctors could make better use of the little time they spend with patients talking about other things, such as counselling them about the health risks of smoking and drinking and not wearing seatbelts.

Concerned

Linda Johnson White, director of the Department of Scientific Policy for the American College of Physicians, said she was concerned doctors would follow the pair's recommendations strictly, which would sharply reduce the amount of time they spend with patients.

The physical touching involved in many of the tests included in the standard examination help establish a sense of trust between the doctor and patient, White said.



A US study calls into question all the poking, prodding and testing involved in the actual medical examination.

Medical notebook

Water tap for the brain

A NEW device that provides easier monitoring and draining of water on the brain is already said to be saving up to 70 children a year from serious brain damage or worse.

Water on the brain, known officially as hydrocephalus, affects more than 2000 babies a year in Britain and can lead to death in young children. The traditional method of dealing with the excess fluid is to fit a mechanical device called a shunt inside the head to drain it off to another part of the body. The problem with this is that the device can block, become infected or even break down and it can take days to detect this by means of a scan. By then serious damage may have been done to the brain.

Now Dr Robert Minns, a consultant neurologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, Scotland, is pioneering an alternative method of combating the problem. His device involves fitting a small button under the scalp which is linked to reservoirs leading from the fluid chambers of the brain.

The button allows a needle to be inserted to detect and measure whether fluid pressure is building up. If it is, the button can be used to tap and relieve the pressure immediately, so avoiding brain damage. Dr Minns says this new form of treatment offers tremendous advantages.

Therapy game for stroke patients

Stroke patients are being helped to recover by playing games, as part of a five-year research project at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, southwest England.

The research, led by Dr Alan Sunderland and Dr Richard Langton-Hewer, is aimed at improving the recovery rate of stroke victims. Every year some 30,000 people in the United Kingdom are affected by brain damage following a stroke. Of these, about 20,000 lose the use of an arm or hand and only some 15 per cent eventually make a full recovery.

Conventional exercises are traditionally used by physiotherapists to improve movement and muscle control but now selected patients are additionally being encouraged to use microcomputers with touch-sensitive screens. They are encouraged through a series of competitive screen games to stimulate the use of arms and hands. This new treatment can be followed at home.

Progress of the patient can be measured through the strength of grip on a handle linked to muscle electrodes, while control of the game on the screen is via a tracker-ball that exercises the fingers.

Dr Sunderland says that by the end of the five-year experiment it should be possible to tell whether conventional exercises or physiotherapy via the computer screen are more effective for the majority of patients.

Contact lens wearers warned

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Careless use of homemade salt solutions to clean contact lenses could lead to damaged vision or even blindness, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said.

It said the solutions, prepared by dissolving salt tablets or commercial preparations in water, were safe when heated and used to disinfect lenses before they are put into the eyes.

But the solutions could become contaminated with germs despite the presence of salt, the FDA said. Micro-organisms could enter the eye and cause serious infections if the contaminated solution was later used as a rinse or wetting agent after the lenses had been disinfected.

Even a commercially prepared chemical disinfectant may not suffice if used along with a homemade salt solution, it said.

Although the chemical solution kills most types of organisms, it may not be completely effective against a micro-organism called *Acanthamoeba* which is sometimes found to contaminate homemade salt solutions, the FDA said.

Though *Acanthamoeba* infections are rare, they appear to be on the rise, with 200 cases reported since 1984, it said.

A recent study by the US centres for disease control in Atlanta found that 21 of 27 people with *Acanthamoeba* infections had used homemade salt solutions, though many also kept their lenses in while swimming and disinfected them less often than manufacturers recommended, the FDA said.

Medical lasers go where no scalpel has gone before

By Catherine Arnest

BOSTON, (Reuters): Lasers, which are being used increasingly in medicine, could help treat heart disease, cancer, and even nearsightedness, industry analysts predict.

Researchers are developing new procedures using the intense beam of light to perform operations that cannot be done with a scalpel.

Lasers are already used to treat several eye diseases and remove everything from warts and haemorrhoids to excess tissue growths and tumours.

Industry analysts in the United States say that within five years some newer types of lasers could also treat wounds and aids, creating a billion-dollar market in the process.

"If the new applications being developed prove successful and are generally accepted, and I think they will be, they could double the size of the laser market by the mid-1990s," said medical technology consultant Irving Arons.

Arons predicts that the worldwide medical laser market will grow from \$390 million last year to \$530 million by 1992, based on existing applications.

Impact

If lasers are approved to clear clogged coronary vessels — a procedure currently being tested by 24 companies in the United States — that market alone could be worth \$400 million a year, Arons said.

The proliferation of lasers will have an impact not only on their manufacturers but also on the health-care industry as a whole. Because laser treatment does not involve an incision, procedures that now require a hospital stay of several days can often be done on an outpatient basis.

Doctors caution that lasers are

not miracle workers, and the process of educating the medical profession to their use could be a lengthy one.

"There are still a number of unresolved biological issues," said Dr Carmel Puliafito, an ophthalmologist who heads the laser research laboratory at Massachusetts eye and ear hospital, which puts out a brochure for the public called 'laser myths'.

"It's hard to know how far we will actually go with them," Puliafito said.

Still, he said, "There's no question about it, they are pretty fantastic things. There are really no negatives associated with their use in procedures so far."

The laser, which stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, was first developed in 1960 and has been widely used in ophthalmology and dermatology.

The laser beam can range in intensity and colour from ultraviolet to the visible to infrared. By changing the colour and intensity of a beam, its application can also be changed, from vapourising tissue to fusing it.

The American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery estimates that in 1987 about a million procedures of all types were performed by laser in the United States, where 14,000 lasers are now in use.

Most of those lasers use either carbon dioxide gas, argon gas or yttrium-aluminum-garnet crystals (YAG) to create the intense beam of light. But, they also produce intense heat which makes them unusable in some parts of the body.

New lasers that are cooler and in some cases smaller and cheaper than the older models are being tested.

The new lasers are expected to lead the way in treating coronary

disease and eye defects, expected to be the largest applications for lasers in the 1990s.

"A lot of the older lasers were just replacing traditional surgical methods," said David Muller, president of Laser-maker Summit Technology. "We're trying to develop lasers that can do things that just can't be done with a scalpel."

Summit, based in Watertown, Massachusetts, is leading the way in developing excimer lasers, which emit no heat, for corrective eye surgery. The excimer laser cuts the chemical bonds which hold tissue together, without damaging the surrounding tissue. Ophthalmologists are experimenting with using them to reshape the eye's cornea, a procedure called keratotomy, to restore normal vision.

The procedure, which takes less than a minute, can be done in a doctor's office. It will cost \$1,000 to 2,000 in the United States, and would eliminate the need for glasses.

Summit received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to test the device on humans in early 1988 and last September the first successful excimer laser treatment on astigmatism in the United States was performed in Kansas City.

Five days after a 73-year-old woman's left eye was treated with the excimer laser for 45 seconds, her visual acuity improved to 20/25 from 20/100.

Muller expects to receive full FDA approval by the end of 1991 and estimates that five years after that, three million to five million patients a year will be receiving the treatment.

Trimedyne, in Tustin, California, has already won FDA approval to market its excimer lasers for use in unclogging leg arteries by blasting away the fatty tissue.

By Henry Gee

THE worldwide eradication of smallpox may have opened the way to vaccination against lassa fever, an acute and often fatal disease that affects hundreds of thousands of people, particularly in rural areas of West Africa.

The final demise of the smallpox virus some 12 years ago was largely thanks to the vaccination virus which, although harmless to human beings, was similar enough to smallpox to provide immunity against it. There have been no reports of smallpox from anywhere in the world since the last case in Somalia, in 1977.

New research shows that a genetically-engineered strain of vaccinia virus that contains a lassa virus gene protects monkeys from otherwise lethal doses of lassa fever.

A new generation of people born since the successful completion of the smallpox eradication programme will be susceptible to vaccinia infection, and so could be immunized against lassa fever using vaccinia viruses as carriers of lassa virus genes.

A team of researchers at the Special Pathogens Branch of the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, tested their recombinant lassa-vaccinia virus on laboratory monkeys, in which the progress of lassa fever is very similar to that in human beings. A report of this work is published in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Virus

The recombinant vaccinia virus contains a gene that normally produces two proteins that form part of the outer coat of the lassa virus. The body responds to challenge by the recombinant virus by producing antibodies against the lassa virus coat proteins. In this way, the body becomes immune to subsequent lassa fever infections.

The immunized monkeys recovered from normally lethal doses of lassa fever, although they did become febrile for a time. Importantly, the recombinant virus is not itself pathogenic.

The researchers also tried out a different vaccination strategy, exploiting a harmless relative of the lassa virus known as Mopeia virus, originally isolated from rats in Mozambique.

Mopeia plays vaccinia to lassa's smallpox, and the new research confirms earlier work

Smallpox eradication paves way

Vaccine hope for lassa fever



The last recorded case of smallpox was in Somalia in 1977. Since then there have been no reports of smallpox anywhere in the world.

that showed how monkeys with antibodies against Mopeia are protected against subsequent infection with lassa fever. In some ways, Mopeia-vaccinated monkeys fared better than those treated with the recombinant virus, suffering fewer symptoms of fever after challenge with lassa virus.

Method

But unlike vaccinia, Mopeia is not known to occur in human beings, so there is no way of knowing how human beings would respond to it. The potential of Mopeia as a vaccine

against lassa in humans must therefore remain an academic question, say the researchers.

Another method of immunization against viruses involves generating antibodies against killed viruses. But preliminary work by one of the research team shows that this is not effective against lassa fever in monkeys.

Lassa fever is carried by *Mastomys natalensis*, a species of rat which infests houses in areas where lassa fever is endemic. It suffers lifetime infection with lassa virus and excretes enormous numbers of

virus particles; the disease spreads to human populations when sources of water and food are contaminated with the urine of infected rats. It might be thought that a basic lassa fever eradication strategy would concentrate on getting rid of the rats, but the researchers say that there are insurmountable practical problems with this approach.

Because of the problems associated with using Mopeia or killed lassa virus as a vaccine, the development of a recombinant virus based on vaccinia may be the only option left.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

VALVE MALFUNCTION GENERALLY NOT VERY SERIOUS

QUESTION: A frequent pain in my chest brought me to my doctor's office. I am a 44-year-old woman in reasonably good health, and so the diagnosis of disease of my heart valves called a "prolapse" was both a surprise and a cause of some anxiety. What are the implications of this heart disease? Will it require that I change my lifestyle?

ANSWER: Your condition, called mitral valve prolapse (MVP), is a common abnormality of one of the heart valves, the mitral valve. It's more common in women than in men, and can be found in 5 per cent to 10 per cent of our population.

While it's most often discovered in adults, MVP may be a congenital situation, present at birth. The mitral valve prevents the blood coming into the heart from the lungs from flowing backward. The valves are held in place by fine cords and close each time the heart contracts. If the valves are not formed properly, or the cords are too long, they fail to close properly, and some blood may leak backwards. This causes murmurs or low sounds, which along with the click of the improperly closing valves, are the clues the physician hears when listening to your heart

through the stethoscope. Further tests with electrocardiogram, chest X-rays, or echocardiogram (which uses sound waves to form a picture of the heart) may be used to confirm the diagnosis, although frequently the typical pattern of sounds and your general physical condition are enough to identify the condition.

In the majority of patients, MVP is not a serious condition, and in fact, once the diagnosis has been confirmed and the patient is assured that no real dangers exist, the chest pain often disappears, without additional treatment. Most patients are in no danger and have no symptoms. Even those who do have symptoms rarely have evidence of increasing heart damage.

MVP probably won't require you to change your lifestyle or necessitate ongoing treatment. Only in the case of severe leakage is surgical repair considered. Your own physician is in the best position to offer this advice.

QUESTION: I'm 40 years old. For the past three months, I've been taking a prescription (someone else's) — codeine tablets for a back problem. The problem has since

gone, but I have come to enjoy the effects of the drug. Am I doing harm to myself? I take about four to six tablets every day. Thank you for your reply.

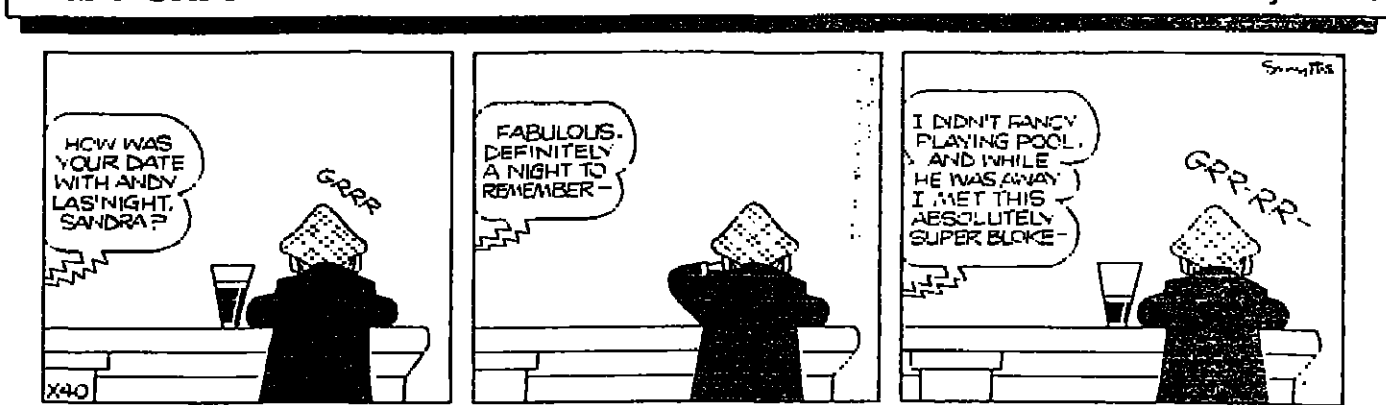
ANSWER: Frankly speaking, you're breaking every rule in the book and may be in serious trouble. The first no-no is to take another person's prescription medicine. You should be properly examined and tested before any medication is prescribed for your use — and only your use.

Second, you're taking a powerful medicine without a physician to counsel and guide you. Third, and most important in your case, you are taking a potent narcotic, an addictive substance, merely for the enjoyable effects, rather than to suppress pain.

All signs point to the possibility that you may already be hooked. I wonder how you have been obtaining the drug for this length of time. At any rate, the time has come to quit, which may be more difficult than you imagined. Either alone or with help and guidance, you must stop before further damage is done.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

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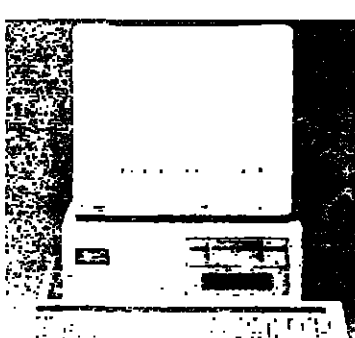
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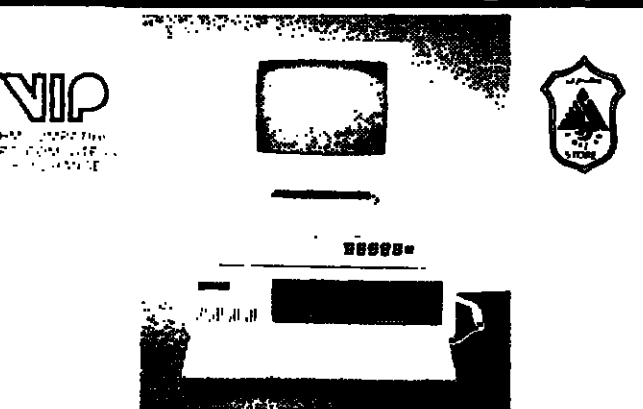


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CCK beat Casuals in dustbowl

CRICKET Club of Kuwait (CCK) won in appalling weather conditions against a gallant Casuals side at Ahmadi on Friday. Casuals needed the win to keep in touch at the top of the KOC League but were denied in a thrilling finish.

A strong wind filled the air with dust and made playing conditions near to impossible as Casuals set out to build a score by batting first. Kevin Wells (15) and Val Tudball (48) gave the team a solid 50 start and looked comfortable against the bowling before Wells skied a catch which held up in the wind.

Tudball again looked in excellent form and punished the bowling with an elegant array of strokes before being given lbw stepping down the track for a big hit. Ron Seward (14) tickled one behind but Simon Clements kept up his recent run of big scores with a fine 41.

Once again Casuals could count on the player to mount up the score. However, big hitting was never possible in such conditions and the attempts of Adi (14), Anderson (2) and Bond (3) to accelerate the score all ended with disaster. Bowler and CCK captain Sajid weighed in with a particularly effective spell.

CCK were left to chase 157 and their openers Raees (26) and Amanullah (11) looked set to try and finish the task in rapid time. Such an attempt was never possible against the particularly fine bowling of Adi Selteratnam (4 for 49) and the pace of Steve Anderson (2 for 42).

At 43 for four the CCK batsmen took a more sensible role and Sarfuddin (27), Sajid (18) and Faisal (26) began to rebuild the innings after Anderson and Selteratnam both contributed further with remarkable running catches. Ron Seward beat the batsmen constantly and when Val Tudball flung himself full length to remove Sayed (23) off Richard Snowden, CCK were 157 for 9 with one over to bowl.

Casuals skipper Snowden brought on Peter Bond to gamble on the last wicket and crowded the bat. Nadeem threw the ball, the ball hit his leg and rolled agonisingly close to the stumps. Unperturbed Nadeem threw the bat again and this time made contact to give his side victory.

Kiwis clinch series against Pakistan 3-1

Morrison leads New Zealand to victory in one-day

HAMILTON, New Zealand, March 14, (Reuters): New Zealand beat Pakistan by seven wickets to take the one-day cricket series 3-1 at Hamilton's Seddon Park yesterday.

New Zealand, led by fast bowler Danny Morrison, virtually wrapped up the game and the series when they put Pakistan in on a seaming pitch and restricted them to just 138 for nine in their 50 overs.

New Zealand reached 139 for the loss of just three wickets and with 10.2 overs to spare. It was the first one-day series New Zealand has won since they beat Pakistan here in 1985.

Once again in this series it was Andrew Jones who shored up the New Zealand batting.

He scored 63 not out — his fifth half century in as many one-day games against Pakistan this year — and has now hit 15 half-centuries in 28 One-Day Internationals. The teams also played a one-day game in place of the rain-out first Test.

Imran Khan gave his side a glimmer of hope when he had John Wright taken at slip for one, and then Martin Crowe taken at cover point for 15.

New Zealand got into further trouble when left-hander Mark Greatbatch was bowled for six on off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed's second ball, making the home team three for 42.

But Jeff Crowe and Jones batted sensibly to see New Zealand to victory, taking few risks in their unbeaten 96-run fourth wicket partnership.

Earlier, Morrison backed by medium-pacer Martin Snedden tore the heart out of the Pakistan innings.

Morrison had Rameez Raja out hooking the game's third ball and then had the wickets of Shoaib Mohammad and Imran in his third and sixth overs to put Pakistan at 17 for three.

Snedden had both Aamer Malik and Salim Malik out leg before, and when Gary Robertson had Ejaz Ahmed caught behind, Pakistan were six for 40.

Mudassar Nazar with 48 and Abdul Qadir with 41 restored respectability to the score but when the overs were up it was still Pakistan's lowest total against New Zealand.

Their previous lowest was the 153 for eight made at Sialkot in 1984/85.

Morrison finished with four for 33 off his 10 overs and Snedden two for 14 off his 10.

Scores: Pakistan 138 for nine in 50 overs (Mudassar Nazar 48, Danny Morrison four for 33, Martin Snedden two for 14). New Zealand 139 for three in 39.4 overs (Andrew Jones 63 not out, Jeff Crowe 39 not out).

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN batting
Rameez Raja c Watson b Morrison 0
Shoaib Mohammad c and b Morrison 3
Aamer Malik lbw b Snedden 11
Imran Khan c Smith b Morrison 2
Mudassar Nazar b Morrison 48
Salim Malik lbw b Snedden 1
Ejaz Ahmed c Smith b Robertson 5
Abdul Qadir c Morrison 41

NEW ZEALAND batting
Tauseef Ahmed c Smith b Watson 13
Salim Jaffer not out 3
Aashif Javed not out 1
Extras (b-4 lb-1 nb-3 w-2) 10
Total (for nine wickets, 50 overs) 138
Fall of wickets: 1-02-33-17-4-19-5-25-40-7-103-8-133-9-137.

Bowling: Morrison 10-1-33-4 (2-w), Watson 10-3-20-1, Snedden 10-3-14-2, Robertson 10-2-21-1 (2-ab), Kuggeleja 10-0-45-1 (1-ab).

NEW ZEALAND batting
J. Wright c Salim Malik b Imran Khan 1
A. Jones not out 63
M. Crowe c Ejaz Ahmed b Imran 63



Morrison: Man of the Match

Khan 15
M. Greatbatch b Tauseef Ahmed 6
J. Crowe not out 39
Extras (b-4 lb-7 b-4) 15
TOTAL (for three wickets, 39.4 overs) 139
Fall of wickets: 1-6-22-3-42
Did not bat: Chris Kuggeleja, Ian Smith, Gary Robertson, Martin Snedden, Danny Morrison, Willie Watson.

Bowling: Imran Khan 10-1-24-2 (4-w), Salim Jaffer 8-1-26-0, Aashif Javed 6-4-1-23-0, Tauseef Ahmed 9-1-29-1, Abdul Qadir 6-0-26-0.

Man of the Match: Danny Morrison
Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.

New Zealand rejects Pakistani criticism

HAMILTON, New Zealand, March 14, (Reuters): New Zealand's Cricket Council (NZCC) today bitterly rejected Pakistani allegations that its umpires were biased and incompetent.

Speaking at the end of an acrimonious Pakistan tour, council chairman Barry Paterson countered with accusations that the tourists had used foul language to put pressure on the umpires, saying New Zealand would formally complain.

"The board completely rejects any allegations of incompetence and bias against its umpires," he said in a statement.

Pressure
"It is concerned at the manner in which some Pakistani players have put extreme and unwarranted pressure on umpires during the series, and believes such tactics are both unacceptable and contrary to the spirit of the game."

"Visible displays of dissent and foul language have no place in any grade of cricket," he said.

Pakistan team manager Inikhab Alam complained during the third Test in Auckland last month of umpire incompetence and bias, saying it might have cost them the game. The atmos-

phere was further soured when players scuffled during the first one-day match in Christchurch earlier this month.

"The umpires have reported extreme abuse from some Pakistani players and this matter will be drawn to the attention of the Pakistani Board of Control with a request that there be appropriate investigation and disciplinary action taken," said Paterson.

Wait
Speaking immediately after the fourth and final one-day international, which New Zealand won by seven wickets, Paterson told reporters that he had waited for the tour to end before coming out publicly.

Pakistani captain Imran Khan rejected the umpires' complaints. "If an umpire is pressured by appealing then he is incompetent," he told reporters.

But Imran said he doubted Pakistan would take action on the matter.

"Our board may or may not say anything to us. We'll say: 'We can show the figures and show you the decisions, crucial decisions that went against us' — they won't do anything," Imran said.

Boulware defeats Bristol

HELSINKI, Finland, March 14, (AP): Vincent Boulware of the United States defeated Keith Bristol of Britain on points in a 10-round light heavyweight bout on Monday night.

Bristol was a late stand-in for injured boxer Tarmo Uusivirta of Finland, who had hoped to beat Boulware and qualify for an International Boxing Federation title bout against Charles "The Prince" Williams of the United States.

In a heavyweight clash, Belgian-based Peter Tshikana of Zaire beat to settle for a draw against Jouni Kopola of Finland after six rounds.

In two other bouts, Antti Juntumaa of Finland stopped Dominique Flao of Luxembourg in the first round of a bantamweight fight. Tom Heiskanen of Finland halted Jamal Jaouani of Morocco in the second round of a welterweight bout.



IBF middleweight champion Michael Nunn (right) playfully spars with WBA middleweight champ Sambu Kalambay during a press conference in Los Angeles. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arum calls for barring WBA title fights in US

LOS ANGELES, March 14, (AP): Promoter Bob Arum, angered by the World Boxing Association's methods of sanctioning title fights, said proposed congressional legislation could bar the organization from sanctioning championship fights in the United States.

"As far as I'm concerned, they're just a bunch of swindlers," Arum said Monday at a news conference promoting the March 25 International Boxing Federation middleweight title fight between champion Michael Nunn and Sambu Kalambay at Las Vegas. "They're a parochial organization that acts in an arbitrary manner."

Rights

Arum's ire was aroused by the WBA's decision earlier this month to strip Kalambay of his middleweight title for not meeting its mandatory challenger, Herol Graham.

Kalambay beat Graham by decision May 26, 1987, in London in a non-title fight.

Arum believes the decision was prompted by his refusal to

grant the South American television rights of fights promoted by his firm, Top Rank, to Elias Cordova, the chairman of the WBA's championship committee. Cordova has denied that assertion.

Arum had hoped that a year-long series of bouts would unify the middleweight title. His plan would have had the winner of the Feb 24 Iran Barkley-Roberto Duran World Boxing Council fight meet the winner of the Nunn-Kalambay fight. Duran upset Barkley in a split decision.

The Venezuela-based WBA is one of three major organizations sanctioning championship fights, along with the Mexico City-based World Boxing Council. The IBF is the only group based in the United States. The organizations charge a fee for sanctioning title fights.

Disavow

"It is time for the WBA to go out of existence," Arum said. "They are doing a disservice to boxing. It is time we prevented the WBA from presenting itself as something significant so it can extort money from fighters and promoters."

Tyson to visit Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 14, (AP): World heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and promoter Don King are expected to attend an International Boxing Federation title bout in Jakarta later this month, a promoter said yesterday.

Ferry Moniaga, who will promote the March 23 bout between IBF straw-weight champion Samuth Sithanarupol of Thailand and Indonesian challenger Nico Thomas, said his office had received a confirmation of the visit by Tyson and King.

"Their visit has been definite," said Moniaga, a former boxer. "We have received a facsimile on Saturday from the IBF, confirming Tyson's and King's visit."

Money

Moniaga refused to disclose how much money Tyson and King would receive for the visit.

The Suara Pamboran daily newspaper quoted Revil Mandagie, one of the sponsors for the title fight, as saying the organizer had contacted King through former Indonesian promoter Boy Bolang.

Australians to clash in Sheffield Shield final

SYDNEY, March 14, (Reuters): Title holders Western Australia, who failed to take a point from the last game of their regular programme, and South Australia, beaten by Tasmania, will clash in the Sheffield Shield cricket final later this month.

Graeme Wood's Western Australia side drew with Victoria in Melbourne yesterday after their four-day match produced 876 runs for the loss of only nine wickets.

Western Australia reached the final for the third successive season by finishing top of the standings on 24 points ahead of South Australia and Queensland, level on 20.

South Australia, who lost by six wickets to Tasmania in Adelaide, qualified ahead of Queensland by virtue of a better runs-per-wicket average.

The final is from March 25-29 with the Australian Cricket Board expected to confirm Perth as the venue.

On the last day of the rain-hit match at the Melbourne cricket ground, Gary Watts (121) and Test batsman Dean Jones (102)

not out) lifted Victoria from their overnight 97 without loss to 343 for three in reply to Western Australia's 533 for six declared.

A dashing, unbroken century partnership between Jamie Cox and Rod Tucker spurred Tasmania to their victory target of 272 with 19 deliveries to spare at the Adelaide Oval. The pair put on 129 for the fifth wicket with Cox hitting an unbeaten 82 and Tucker making 55 not out.

Set a target of 270 off 73 overs to win, Queensland ended on 266 for eight in the drawn game against New South Wales.

Boxer is dead

LYON, France, March 14, (UPI): Ivory Coast boxer David Thio died today at the Pierre Wertheimer neurological hospital from injuries sustained during a fight on March 4 with American superlightweight fighter Terence Alii, doctors said.

Thio had been in a coma since Alii knocked him out in the ninth round of a fight at Lyon's Gerland sports stadium.



Seattle centre Alton Lister (right) keeps an eye on the ball as Bullets' Darrell Walker manoeuvres during first half of NBA action on Monday.

Bucks on 5-game streak

NEW YORK, March 14, (AP): Terry Cummings scored seven points during a decisive 14-4 third-quarter run last night, sending the Milwaukee Bucks to their fifth consecutive victory, 111-95 over the faltering Dallas Mavericks.

Milwaukee led only 62-59 with 9:23 to play in the third period before Cummings started the spurt, hitting a 19-footer from the baseline.

Cummings, who finished with 25 points, added a three-point play and a layup while the Mavericks went almost three minutes without a point.

The Mavericks, who learned starting centre James Donaldson would be lost for the season after undergoing knee surgery yesterday, dropped their sixth game in their last nine starts. They play nine of their next 10 games on the road.

Adrian Dantley led Dallas with 18 points. Jack Sikma added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Milwaukee.

Michael Jordan notched his ninth career triple-double — double figures in three scoring categories — and Craig Hodges had five of Chicago's team-record nine 3-point goals as the Bulls demolished the Indiana Pacers 122-90. Jordan had 21

points, 14 assists and 14 rebounds.

Bernard King got Washington's only field goals in the final four minutes, lifting the Bullets to their ninth straight home victory, 106-101 over the Seattle Supersonics.

Reggie Lewis scored 23 points and the Boston Celtics went over the .500 mark for the first time since Dec 18 in a 114-91 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Kevin Johnson scored 22 points and Tom Chambers added 20, including six during a 13-3 fourth-quarter spurt, leading the Phoenix Suns to a 112-104 victory over the Miami Heat.

Benoit Benjamin matched his season-high 29 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat San Antonio 115-103. It was the first time the Clippers won away from home in 20 games.

Karl Malone scored 25 points and Utah held Cleveland to just four first-quarter field goals and 27 points in the first half as the Jazz defeated the Cavaliers 98-83.

A.C. Green's free throw with one second remaining capped a comeback from an eight-point deficit in the final minutes as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Houston Rockets 97-96 last night.

The sign of good taste



Made in England

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Powerboat race gaining popularity

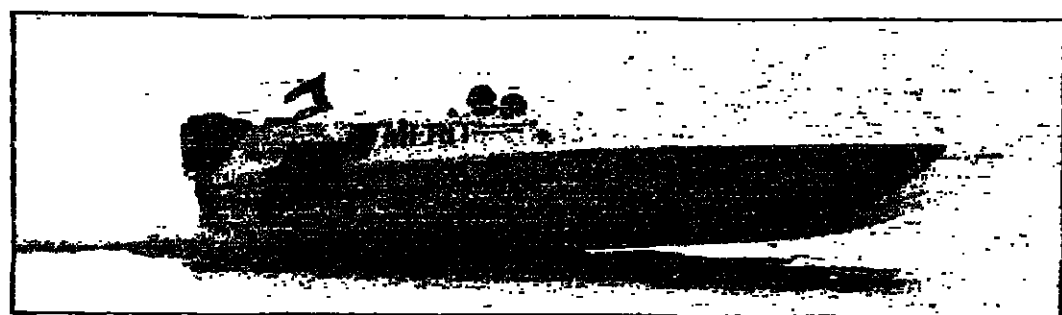
10 Kuwaiti teams to participate in Dubai

By Gail Seery
Arab Times staff

A TEAM of ten Kuwaiti powerboat racers is currently en route to Dubai for Friday's offshore powerboat race. This event is to be a much larger affair than the January race, and will see the participation of many top class boats, including a nine-strong flotilla of American catamarans.

This Kuwait contingent is the largest group of Kuwait nationals to travel to an international motorsport event, a measure of the popularity this sport is quickly gaining. Some 1.5 million dirhams of prize money is at stake, and the Kuwait entrants have already proved that they are realistic contenders at an international level.

Five Kuwait boats entered the January race, and will be returning for this event. These are crewed by Khalifa Al Qatami and Abdullah Al Badr. Mohammed



A powerboat in action during practice.

med Karam and Hossam Al Sayafe. Mishal Al Jarallah and Anando Fernando, Ahmed and Khaled Al Ansari, and Khaled Al Khaled and Alam Shah. They will now be joined by Khaled Al Sabah, Sheikh Basel Al Sabah, Thabit Al Banai, and Abdullah Al Ansari.

Mohammed Karam and Hossam Al Sayafe took fourth place overall and in their group in January's race and Jarallah won the Jordan powerboat race; the Kuwait entrants should give the

local contenders a good fight. "I love this sport," said Khaled Al Khaled, who drives

Kuwait entrants

Mishal Al Jarallah/UPI Fernando Khaled Al Khaled/Alam Shah Hossam Al Sayafe/Essa Al Sayafe Mohd. Karam/Mohd. Karam Sheikh Khaled Al Sabah Sheikh Basel/Morris Holeman Thabit Al Banai Khalifa Al Qatami/Abdullah Al Badr Ahmed Al Ansari/Khaled Al Ansari Abdullah Al Ansari

the Tilda Rice boat. "I raced there last time, and I really want to join this race."

25ft Cougar + 2x2.4 efi
27ft Cougar + 2x2.4 efi
27ft Cougar + 2x2.4 efi
24ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
27ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
28ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
24ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
24ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
24ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi
24ft Tiger + 2x2.4 efi

Morgan hopes to make it a hat-trick in Kuwait

I will go flat out from start: Sulayem

By Gail Seery
Arab Times staff

"THERE is no such thing as an easy rally," says Mohammed Bin Sulayem. "Short stages are not easier — with these stages there is no room for an error. I will go flat out from the start — and hopefully my car will be still with me at the end of the rally."

Sulayem was speaking at a press conference hosted by his new sponsors Winston, yesterday afternoon. His navigator Ronan Morgan, who has been in the winning car on his last two rallies in Kuwait said, "I hope to make it a hat-trick, and I'm looking forward to the rally. The new car is a fantastic piece of machinery, and should perform well here. It's certainly capable of snatching the Middle East Championship title."

Confident

Sulayem's team-mate Ahmed Al Zafiri, and his co-driver Ghazi Al Zafiri, were also at the reception. Despite problems on the recent Kuwait local rally, Ghazi was confident that there would be no more problems. "The stages are short, and we know our line through the stages."



Bin Sulayem (centre) with other rally participants and officials. (Picture by Mohd Bedaa)

difficult rally because this means that you go from the beginning of the first metre of stage 1 to the last metre of the last stage, full attack. Every second counts, and I hope the car performs well. I'm very happy with it — it will be a good rally for the car."

"This rally is more demanding than it looks, you have to go maximum all the way because if you lose concentration and you spin once I think it might cost you the rally."

"I should have an advantage with 4wd, on the first two stages of the first leg in particular. I will attack from the start."

Practice

However, Sulayem has had little time to practice with the rally car, and is actually driving his old Toyota Celica Turbo for practice.

However he does not consider that this will be a problem. "I'll drive the car for a couple of stages before the event, then I'll be able to adapt."

"I think the rally will still be between me and Saeed. Our cars are still much more powerful than the Opel Manta or the Nissan 240RS. We will be fighting each other all the way through. We will also have to watch for the people in the right cars who are good drivers. They will be having a fight among themselves. I need a win here and I will go 100 per cent for it."

"It's good to be back with Ronan. I missed him as my co-driver. But I hope that nothing happens here like what happened in Qatar. People must know that this is a very dangerous thing to

do. It's a very safe sport if you treat it the right way. If anything happens here it will be the end of the sport."

Cast

"I'm still in the cast for driving, but I'm still having pain in my left leg and my back after what happened in Qatar. However, the good news is that this should be my last rally in the neck cast."

Sulayem will be driving a Toyota Celica GT-4, supported by Toyota team Middle East, under the expert guidance of Terry Plant.

The rally starts on Thursday afternoon from the Yacht Club on the Gulf road, and is sponsored by Mahdi Habib Establishment, Messilah Beach Hotel, and of course, the KT Club.

Cecchini clinches victory in Florida tennis

Noah defeats Pereira in Indian Wells

INDIANA WELLS, Calif., March 14. (Reuters) Yannick Noah overcame a scare from promising 18-year-old Nicholas Pereira to advance to the second round of the \$702,500 Indian Wells Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday.

Noah, the 12th seed from France, defeated the Venezuelan qualifier 7-6 6-3.

Squandered

Pereira, who took three of four junior grand slam titles last year by winning at the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open, squandered four set points in the first-set tiebreaker.

Leading 6-3 in the tiebreak, Pereira netted a return and two backhands, allowing Noah to draw even at 6-6 before failing to cash in a fourth set point at 7-6 by netting a forehand return.

Kevin Curren, the 14th seed,

was also extended by a teen-ager before taking a 7-6 4-6 6-3 win over fellow-American Jim Courier.

Struggled

Current struggled to reach the 18-year-old Courier's powerful forehand blasts in the early going, but serve-and-volleyed his way out of trouble later in the match.

Other seeds to advance included 10th-seeded American Brad Gilbert, a 6-4 6-1 winner over Swede Jan Gunnarsson, 11th seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain, who beat American Dan Goldie 7-6 6-1, and 13th-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union who eliminated Ramesh Krishnan of India 3-6 6-4 6-1.

● In Boca Raton, Florida, ninth-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy fought off a strong challenge from Briton Jo Durie

for a 3-6 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 victory in the first round of the \$300,000 Florida women's championship yesterday.

Tournament headliners Steffi Graf of West Germany, defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and American Chris Evert — the top three seeds — enjoyed first-round byes as did the rest of the top eight seeds.

American Susan Sloane, the 12th seed, posted a 6-4 6-2 win over Czechoslovak Radka Zrubakova, while her compatriot Terry Phelps beat Sabrina Goleš Yugoslavia 6-2 6-1.

Peanut Louie Harper survived a tough baseline duel against fellow-American Kathleen Horvath. In a match that went one game short of the maximum possible, Harper triumphed 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-4) 7-5.

Nuns under starter's orders

TRIM, Ireland, March 14 (Reuters) Nuns around the world are under starter's orders to exchange their habits for riding breeches and race in an International Nun Run Classic.

"We are urging any nuns available for the race to get their whips out and get into training," organiser Sean Dempsey told reporters. "Even if they don't have a suitable pony, we can supply some on the day."

The International Nun Run Classic is being staged on June 25 at the annual pony races at Trim in central Ireland. The winner's prize is 1,000 points (\$1,500) — but the first man past the post will have to donate the purse to charity.

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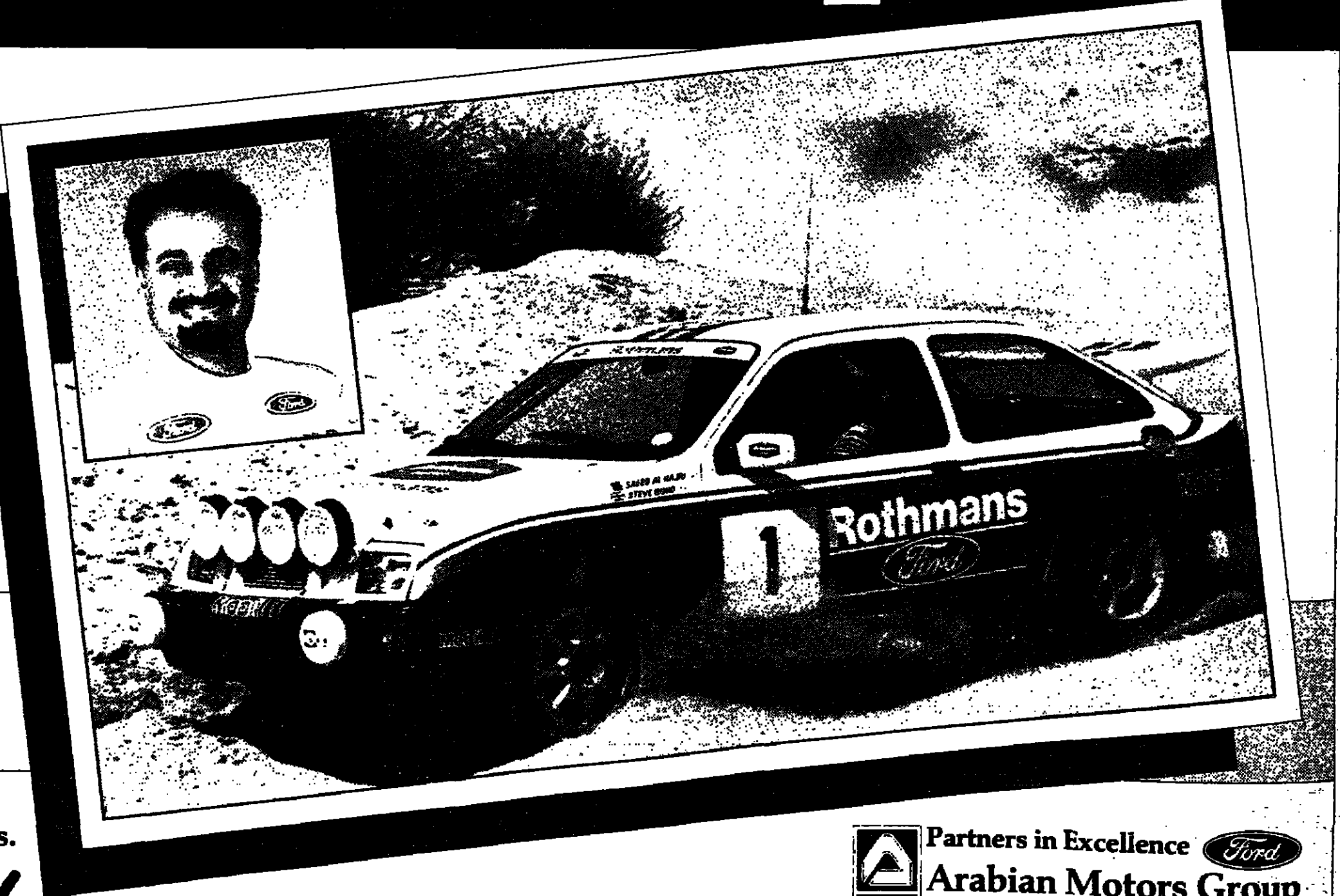
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